

Canton Observer



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IN THE PAPER TODAY

Local news: You'll find more news about Canton on Pages A3, A4, A6 and A13 in today's Observer.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Things we breathe: People breathe to stay alive, but some are mixing in potentially lethal gases like nitrous oxide, also known as N2O or "laughing gas," for a quick feeling of euphoria./B1

ENTERTAINMENT

College theater: Kelly Komlen of Livonia talks about "The Jewish Wife," a one-act play she is performing at Wayne State University's Studio Theatre./E1

Books: He could be anywhere, but Elmore "Dutch" Leonard, the author of 34 novels, many of which have been made into films, is content to stay in Michigan./E1

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Family Skate postponed by thin ice



It looks like El Nino put its curse on plans for tonight's Family Skate Night at Heritage Park.

Canton Parks and Recreation Supervisor Bob Dates called off the annual event Tuesday. Another date has been tentatively set for 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 5.

"I just talked to our grounds crew. The ice isn't safe," said Dates.

"We need a minimum of four inches of ice. We only have two."

Typically, the free Family Skate Night draws 200-300 people to the two ponds at Heritage Park, behind the Administration Building on Canton Center Road. The Parks and Recreation staff sets up lights to illuminate the ponds. Hot chocolate and music is provided.

Dates is hoping for three or four days of cold weather to freeze the ponds for February's skate night.

- Valerie Olander

Yack: Arena deal 'very close'



BY VALERIE OLANDER
STAFF WRITER

A privately-owned ice arena could be built in Canton on property currently owned by the township on Haggerty Road, between Michigan and Palmer.

Supervisor Tom Yack said the board of trustees could be looking at a proposal as soon as Tuesday if a tentative agreement is sealed by the end of this

week. Township administrators and a developer have been negotiating terms of an agreement off and on for nearly a year, he said.

Yack would not reveal the name of the developer or terms of a pending contract, only saying that the project "goes beyond ice."

"Other recreational uses will be available on the property," Yack said. The property in question is 20 acres

on the east side of Haggerty abutting the planned Haggerty Corporate Park development by Stanley Frankel. Property in the industrial area has been appraised as being worth in excess of \$100,000 per acre, said Aaron Machnik, director of Municipal Services.

"We are very close to an agreement if we are able to get through some small hoops," Yack said.

"I do not want to build people's hopes up too high. People shouldn't necessarily think they'll be ice here next September. This could fall apart like a house of cards," he added.

A small committee of interested residents presented information to the

township board in December of 1996 on costs to build and operate a public ice arena. At that time, estimated cost for land acquisition and construction was \$7 million.

The study also claimed that between 500-750 kids are on waiting lists to play hockey with the Plymouth-Canton Hockey Association.

The township turned the matter over to Finance and Budget Director Tony Minghine to decide if they should go forward with a feasibility study. Officials also toured the Farmington Hills arena in early 1997. That's where pub-

Please see ARENA, A12



STAFF PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH CARNIGHE

Remembering King: Fifth-graders Kristina Zaumziel (left) and Hamza Malek take turns giving portions of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech. Below, fourth-grader Jon Trevarthen (left) and fifth-grader DaJaun Green sing a song during the assembly.

MLK Day

Peace is message of Hoben event

Students at Hoben Elementary School in Canton took time out Monday morning to learn about a man who died a generation before many of them were even born - and how his legacy affects their lives.

The school's Peace Assembly honoring the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King included music, a dramatic reading of the civil rights leader's

most famous speech and discussion how to solve conflicts between people with different backgrounds.

Student council members and peer mediators offered a demonstration of how to handle such conflicts.

The Hoben assembly was one of numerous programs at Plymouth-Canton schools to mark the holiday.



Students take off for cyberspace with lab upgrade

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER

Students at Our Lady of Good Counsel school are planning trips to the White House, Smithsonian Institution and Middle East ... all without ever leaving Plymouth.

This school year the OLGC computer lab has added Internet access to its capabilities, and all 563 students are learning the power of the World Wide Web.

"It's been a great learning experience for the kids," said principal Ted Behn. "During the summer we added the Internet lines, and now all the kids have their own e-mail addresses. They go to the lab once a week to get their e-mail messages from relatives and classmates, and learn how to maneuver the Internet."

While Our Lady of Good Counsel has had computers for about 7 years, there's been a big push the past several years to upgrade the system.

"It seems like just a few years ago Catholic schools were just getting fax machines, and now we're getting e-mail," Behn said tongue-in-cheek. "We found in some cases the kids' computers at home were better than ours, so it was time for an upgrade."

And, so far, the program appears to be working.

"Two years ago we began assessing a \$100 per student computer fee, which has given us \$112,000 to upgrade," said Behn. "I think we might be able to drop that somewhat next year because the start-up costs have been covered, and our main costs now are Internet access and upgrading. I'd like to replace about five computers a year so we don't have to replenish all at one time."

The junior high classrooms have eight computers, and a downstairs lab has 20 more. Having 20 in one room allows for classes to be taught once a



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BEERLIN

On-line: Michael Stanford wants to ask an Internet question. Students at Our Lady of Good Counsel, who have had computers for about seven years, now have Internet access.

Please see COMPUTERS, A4

New homes will have 'old' look

CHERRY HILL VILLAGE

BY VALERIE OLANDER
STAFF WRITER

Turn-of-the-century-style housing is planned for a 100-acre development at Cherry Hill and Denton on the eastern limit of Canton's historic Cherry Hill Village.

Some of the architectural features of the 42 detached condominiums and 98 homes include large front porches and side entry garages. Plans even call for white picket fences.

Representatives from Canton Land Development, LCC, unveiled preliminary site plans Monday that strayed from anything ever seen before in Canton. Planning commissioners gave it unanimous tentative approval.

Please see CHERRY HILL VILLAGE, A2

Sale means land stays undeveloped

BY VALERIE OLANDER
STAFF WRITER

Canton officials sold a 16-acre "wooded wetland" at the southeast corner of Lilley and Palmer to a developer for \$10.

The developer, Jeffrey Brown of Hampton Homes, is building a 44-home subdivision adjacent to the property. Conditions of the land sale require that it remain passive recreation land.

In 1995, township officials sold "the highest and driest" four acres of a 20-acre parcel to Brown for \$55,599 to enhance his Echo Forest subdivision.

The sale last week by the board of

Please see LAND SALE, A6

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- TRAVERSE CITY 107 E. FRONT ST. (Bayside Entrance) 616-941-1999
- BLOOMFIELD HILLS 2540 WOODWARD at Square Lake Rd 248-338-0803
- BIRMINGHAM 101 TOWNSEND corner of Pierce 248-644-5950
- GROSSE POINTE 19435 MACK AVE. just North of Moross 313-885-0300
- ANN ARBOR 3336 WASHTEAW West of U.S. 23 734-973-9340
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Road salt savings add up for county

For the second straight year, Wayne County has generated a significant savings in the area of its road salt purchases.

This savings — now at more than \$500,000 per year — will not only conserve gas tax dollars, it will pay for more road repairs, according to Wayne County Executive Edward McNamara.

"By ferretting out less expensive prices for our road salt, we have continued Wayne County's trends toward more efficient government and better roads," said McNamara.

Each year Wayne County uses about 100,000 tons of salt to keep 462 miles of state roads and 721 miles of county primary roads safe and clear throughout the winter months. At a cost of about \$30 per ton, that means the county spends \$3 million annually for its salt, which equals approximately one-half of its winter maintenance budget.

Two years ago the county was paying closer to \$33 per ton for its salt. After extensive research into various purchasing agreements the county signed on to the state budget department's

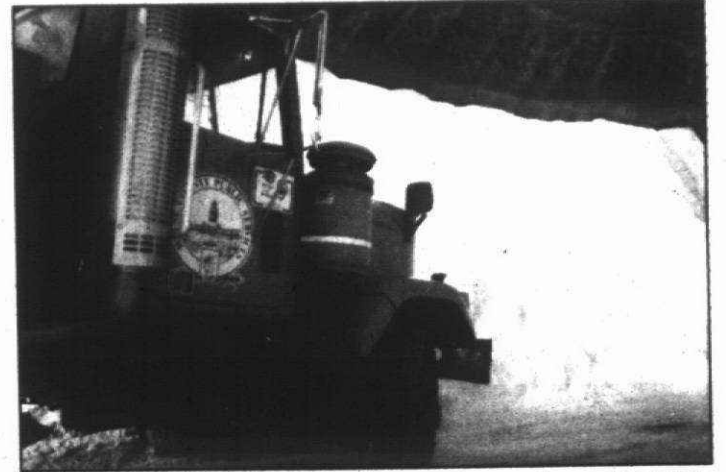
extended purchasing plan, which helps keep costs down by buying salt in larger quantities.

"Our initial savings last year was \$330,000, but we knew we could do better," McNamara said. "This year, thanks to a little pressure we put on the state to look at its prices, we have realized another round of savings to the tune of \$180,000, bringing our yearly total to more than \$500,000."

McNamara said the savings frees up a considerable amount of money for road improvements, which could be used to resurface

an additional 2 1/2 miles of two-lane road, or one mile of a major five-lane road each year. The county also could use that money and extend the life of 12 miles of road by sealing cracks or replacing areas of broken concrete.

The money will supplement a \$60 million road improvement bond program outlined last year. Under the plan, the county expects to eliminate all county roads currently rated in "poor" or "very poor" condition over the next three years.



Salt pile: Each year, Wayne County uses about 100,000 tons of salt to keep roads clear throughout the winter.

Federal grant pays for 33 more deputies

Wayne County Sheriff Robert Ficano applauded the recent announcement by the State Department of Justice of a grant award to the Sheriff's Department that will result in 33 more officers on the streets of Wayne County. The grant totals \$825,000 per year for three years or more than \$2.5 million from the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program.

"Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. This money will allow us to implement more of the community oriented crime fighting approaches that we pioneered here in Wayne County," said Ficano, who is serving his 14th year as the head law enforcement officer in Michigan's largest county.

"This financial assistance will allow us to continue our neigh-

borhood crime fighting focus, particularly in the area of drug trafficking," Ficano said.

The grant will enhance narcotic enforcement, morality surveillance, community services and municipal support services.

COPS monies provide funding for 75 percent of an officer's total salary and benefits.

"Last year, the state house voted to spend more to fund the COPS program and the legislature passed that funding as part of its 1998-99 budget. I know that commitment is there from local communities to do likewise," Ficano said.

Ficano also praised the efforts of Michigan and Wayne County's Congressional delegation, without whose efforts the grant victory would not have been possible.

Parks from page A7

rails have been installed to make it easier to trudge back up the hill after each exhilarating slide down. And, most importantly, the parking lot has been reoriented away from the bottom of the hill to avoid anyone accidentally sliding into the parking area.

Future plans call for the addition of a fire pit so bonfires can

be built to provide a place to warm up after some fun in the snow. Hines Park-Cass-Benton sledding hill is on Hines Drive between Six and Seven Mile Roads.

For more information, call Wayne County Parks at (313)261-1990.

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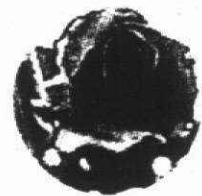
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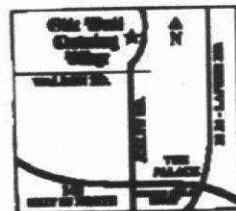
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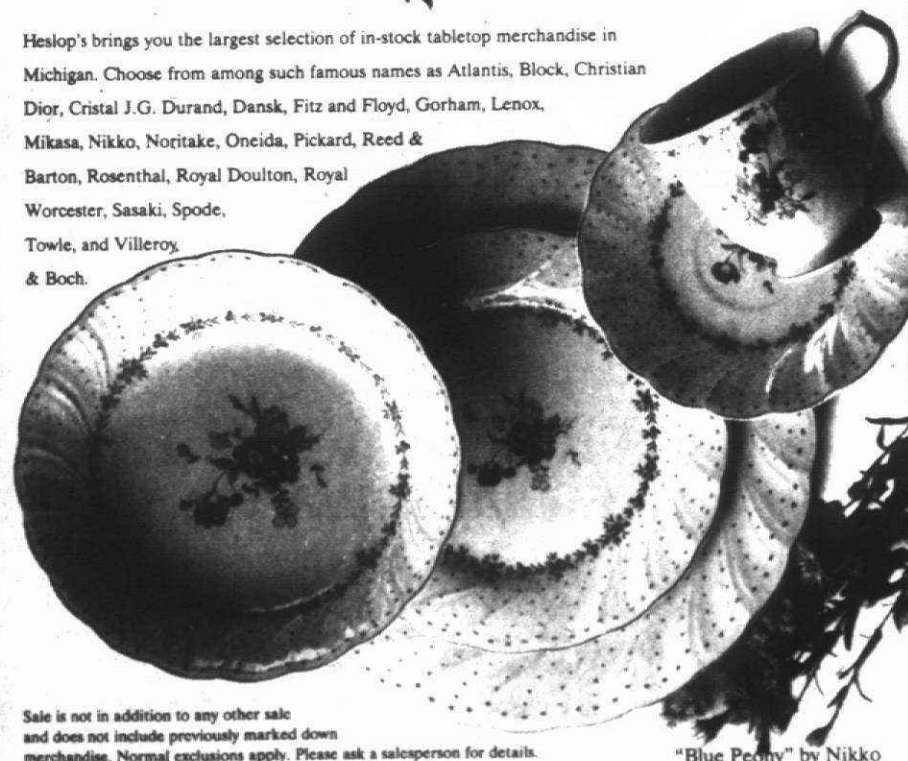
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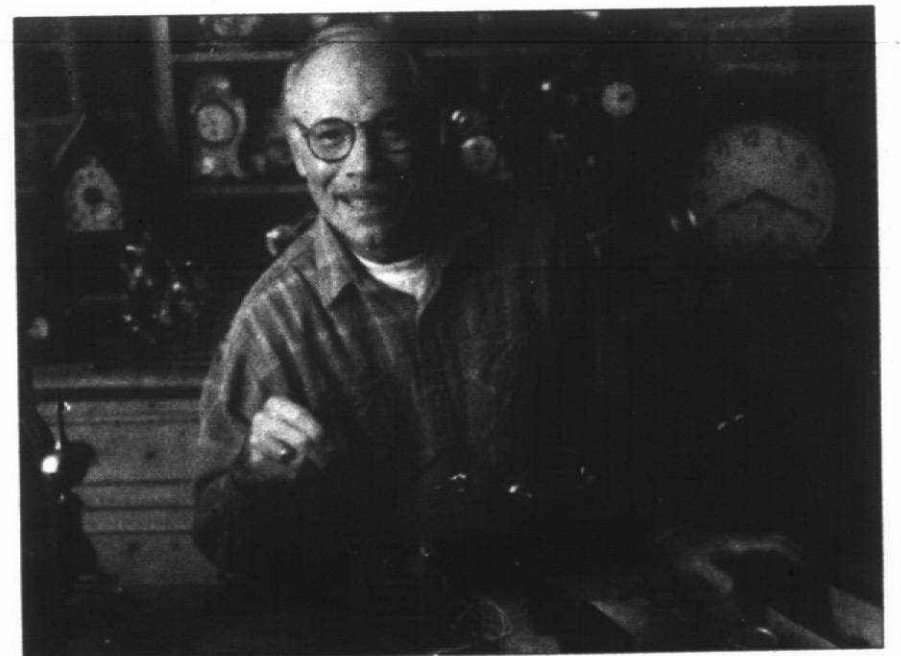
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Arena from page A1

lic discussions stopped. Township trustee Bob Shefferly said he was aware that negotiations have been ongoing for the privately-owned sports complex, but no specific information has been presented to elected officials as of yet.

A member of the ice arena committee, Ralph Shufeldt, said he wasn't aware of the proposal for a privately-owned facility. "Great. I would be behind it 100 percent... I would encourage any private developer to do it. It's a needed facility and I think it would be utilized more than enough to cover its expenses," he said.

However, word of the proposed sports complex has leaked into the city of Plymouth where Parks and Recreation Director Tom Willette said a new rink in such close proximity could affect operations at its Cultural Center.

"The ice arena is still profitable for the city... The Plymouth-Canton Hockey Association has a tremendous waiting list and are booking outside of the area for ice time... as far as the Detroit Skating Club and the Ice Box (in Ann Arbor)," he said.

Novi is going to be opening an arena soon. "If it dwindles anymore we'll have to consider closing it or changing into something else, maybe indoor soccer. Any more arenas is obviously going to hurt us financially," Willette said.

CANTON TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Act 184 of the Public Acts of 1943 of the State of Michigan, as amended, and pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Canton that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Canton will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, February 2, 1998, in the Lower Level Conference Room #3 of the Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road at 7:30 p.m. on the following proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance:
SINGLE/FERRETS REZONING - CONSIDER REQUEST TO REZONE PARCEL NO. 138 99 0008 000 FROM C-1 VILLAGE SHOPPING AND TO RESEARCH PARK DISTRICT. Property is located on the north side of Michigan Avenue west of Lilley Road.
Written comments addressed to the Planning Commission will be received at the above address up to the time of the hearing.

Published: January 8, 1998
January 22, 1998 REVISED

STATE OF MICHIGAN COUNTY OF WAYNE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH ORDINANCE NO. C-97-97 CHAPTER 27 PLUMBING CODE (REPEAL)

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE C-94-06, CHAPTER 27 OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE.

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH ORDAINS:
SECTION 1. THIS SECTION REPEALS THE PLUMBING CODE.
The plumbing Code, Ordinance C-94-06, Chapter 27 of the Township Code, and all sections and subsections thereof are hereby repealed.
SECTION 2. VIOLATION AND PENALTY.
Any person, corporation, partnership or any other legal entity who shall violate or fail to comply with any of the provisions of this Ordinance or any of the regulations adopted in pursuance thereof, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof may be fined not more than Five Hundred (\$500.00) Dollars or imprisoned not more than ninety (90) days, or both, in the discretion of the Court.
SECTION 3. REPEAL.
All other Ordinances and parts of Ordinances inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are, to the extent of such inconsistencies, hereby repealed.
SECTION 4. SEVERABILITY.
If any clause, sentence, section, paragraph or part of this Ordinance, or the application thereof to any person, firm, corporation, legal entity or circumstances, shall be for any reason adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional or invalid, said judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder of this Ordinance. It is hereby declared to be the legislative intent of this body that the Ordinance is severable, and that the Ordinance would have been adopted had such invalid or unconstitutional provision not been included in this Ordinance.
SECTION 5. SAVINGS CLAUSE.
The repeal provided herein shall not abrogate or affect any offense or act committed or done, or any penalty or forfeiture incurred, or any ending fee, assessment, litigation or prosecution of any right established, occurring prior to the effective date hereof.
SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.
This Ordinance is to be given immediate effect upon publication as required by law.
CERTIFICATION
The foregoing Ordinance was adopted by the Township Board of the Charter Township of Plymouth at a meeting of the Board duly called and held on the 13 day of January, 1998 to be effective upon publication as provided by law.
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH
BY: MARILYN MASSENGIL, Clerk
Introduced: December 16, 1997
First Publication: December 21, 1997
Adopted: January 13, 1998
Effective Upon Publication: January 22, 1998
Published: January 22, 1998

Schoolcraft required to remain in PRDA

LIVONIA
Attorneys for the city of Livonia don't expect Plymouth Road businesses to oppose bonding for redevelopment of the corridor now that \$30 million worth of bonds are slated to be issued for 30 years.

The original proposal by the Plymouth Road Development Authority was \$10 million worth of bonds for 20 years.

That was changed recently when PRDA board members realized the scope of the project was larger than they anticipated.

"I'll be surprised if there is opposition to this," Dennis Neiman, attorney for Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, told the Livonia City Council during a briefing last week of what lies ahead in the bonding process for the PRDA.

"The businesses will pay no more taxes. The only change for them is where those dollars go."

If no opposition emerges, the city expects to sell bonds worth \$7.5 million for the first phase of development on April 22. Phase I includes new curbs, sidewalks, street lighting and landscaping starting at Inkster and working westward toward Middlebelt.

One question previously up in the air has now been settled.

Board approves scaled-down gas station plan

**BY VALERIE OLANDER
STAFF WRITER**

Tech Express will be moving ahead with plans to build a gas station and convenience store at the southwest corner of Beck and Michigan Avenue.

The Canton Township Board of Trustees unanimously approved a special land use on Jan. 13 allowing the development in the regional commercial and general light industrial area. It also is adjacent to a residential area.

Original plans included a diesel fueling station, fast-food restaurant and car wash. The planning commission denied the request in October.

"The key reason we denied it was because of the residents living on Beck Road. The homes are too close to the road, 30-40 feet and the traffic and smell of diesel fuel would make a big impact," said Trustee Melissa McLaughlin, also a member of the planning commission.

"Until such time as the complexity of the neighborhood changes we felt it would be better that a truck fueling station and drive through restaurant not be permitted," McLaughlin added.

Tech Express resubmitted plans in early December for the

gas station/convenience store. The planning commission recommended approval.

The Beck Road residents were not present at the township board meeting Tuesday, although a real estate agent representing at least two of the six homeowners was in attendance.

Jerry Chaundy of Prudential Accent Realty, Inc. said one

home has been on the market for some time without interest from residential buyers due to the pending gas station.

Several commercial developers have expressed interest in the property if all six homeowners agreed to sell.

Richard LaRowe of Tech Express told board members that the company intends to expand the gas station on the four-acre site in the future to include the diesel fueling station, fast food restaurant and car wash. It would require additional approval by Canton officials.

To comment via e-mail: newsroom@oonline.com. If your comments are intended for publication, please include your name and telephone number.

Rep. calls cloning ban issue for feds

LANSING (AP) - Highlights of last week's action at the Capitol: Two state lawmakers are pushing bills that would make it illegal in Michigan to clone human beings. But U.S. Rep. Vern Riffe said the issue really should be dealt with at the federal level. The scientist who cloned the sheep Dolly said Thursday it would be irresponsible to discuss cloning humans.

State Sen. Loren Bennett, R-Canton, plans to introduce legislation in the Michigan Senate that would penalize medical facilities and personnel for human cloning experimentation.

Bennett called such activity "tortuous experimentation to children" and "immoral" in recent news reports.

Bennett said his bill will include proposed penalties of up to \$1 million.

In other news from the Capitol:

- Secretary of State Candice Miller on Monday said she plans to issue an administrative rule making so-called "issue advocacy" advertisements subject to the same campaign finance disclosure law that governs ads that specifically urge votes for or against a particular candidate.
- Rep. Thomas Alley, D-West Branch, wants to change the fact that in Michigan, you don't need a license to drive a snowmobile, boat, personal watercraft or dirt bike.

SAINT JOSEPH MERCY CANTON HEALTH BUILDING

The doctors you have come to trust at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor are taking care of patients right here in Canton.

At the new Canton Health Building, internal medicine physicians, pediatricians, obstetricians & gynecologists, cardiologists, orthopedic physicians and other specialists will begin seeing patients on February 23. The new facility provides on-site laboratory and radiology services, a complete pharmacy and an Urgent Care center open from 8 am till 10 pm, 365 days a year. An interactive health education center will open in the building early in 1999. High quality health services close to home... exactly what you expect.

"I EXPECT TO FIND EXCELLENT HEALTH CARE SERVICES RIGHT IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD."

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- General Surgery
- Health Education
- Maternal Fetal Medicine
- Oncology
- Ophthalmology
- Orthopedics
- Pharmacy
- Physical Medicine/Therapy
- Podiatry
- Speech Pathology
- Lab
- Occupational Medicine
- Radiology

Canton and Plymouth are flourishing with families. In fact, with nearly 30,000, this area is one of Michigan's largest family communities. For 16 years, our family of medical professionals have brought a full complement of healthcare services to Canton and Plymouth; including the only 24-hour emergency room in the area. Now everything for your family's healthcare needs is right here at Oakwood Healthcare Center - Canton.

Get a FREE Cholesterol Screening! Call 800-543-WELL to register now for an appointment. PLUS receive a FREE low-fat cookbook with your screening!

Oakwood Healthcare Center - Canton 7300 Canton

Renamed arts council dedication set Jan. 31

The Plymouth Community Arts Council will officially dedicate the new Joanne Winkelman Hulce Center for the Arts Saturday, Jan. 31. The community is invited to an open house from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Children on hand at 10 a.m. will participate in the great unveiling of the long-awaited sign in front of the building. The action is symbolic of the council's focus on the next generation.

Following the unveiling, families may sample various art center classes and activities. The classroom art volunteers will be on hand to give short presentations of the picture, sculpture and culture units used in the schools. Parents will see why their students enjoy the program so much.

There will be short creative/dramatic workshops, including theater games to highlight the joy of performing. In the art classrooms, families can experience different art media such as sketching, cartooning, and collage. Everyone will make something to take home and will experience the fun and creativity of a PCAC art class.

There will be plenty of activities, refreshments, and a few surprises thrown in. The Art Rental Gallery will be open to showcase its collection and information will be available on all classes and programs.

In the evening, a private reception will be held to honor Joanne Winkelman Hulce, the founder of the Plymouth Community Arts Council.

OBITUARIES

MARY A. WOODWARD

Services for Mary A. Woodward, 77, of Canton were held Jan. 21 at St. John Neumann Church, with the Rev. George Charnley officiating. The burial was at St. Hedwig Cemetery.

Mrs. Woodward was born on Dec. 4, 1921, in Detroit. She died Jan. 17 at the Oakwood Healthcare Center in Canton.

She worked as a seamstress for the automotive industry. She was a member of St. John Neumann Church.

Her survivors include her husband, Leslie Eugene; four daughters, Madeleine (Bob) Libtow, Joan (Hermann) Lohrer, Mary Margaret Menendez, Gail; four sons, L. Kevin (Sherry) Haeger, Craig (Delphine), Mitchell (Wendy), Kent (Cheryl); 21 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

ALEXANDER ERNEST CARR

Services for Alexander Ernest Carr, 97, of Romulus were held Jan. 20 at Neely-Turowski Funeral Home in Canton, with the Rev. Edward Coley of Newburg United Methodist Church officiating. Burial was at Parkview Memorial Cemetery.

Mr. Carr was born Dec. 8, 1900, in Dovercourt, England. He died Jan. 16 at Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center.

He worked as a butler. His survivors include his stepson, Lloyd (Phyllis) Derhammer of

Canton; one brother, Joshua Carr of England; and three grandchildren.

ELIZABETH A. SIMPSON

Services for Elizabeth A. Simpson, 84, of Plymouth were held Jan. 20 at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, with the Rev. Drex Morton officiating. Burial was at Riverside Cemetery in Plymouth.

Mrs. Simpson was born on Dec. 18, 1913, in Detroit. She died on Jan. 17 in Livonia.

She was a homemaker and came to the Plymouth community in 1930 from Detroit.

She loved her family and she was especially fond of family gatherings. Her hobbies were bird watching, the outdoors and cooking.

She was preceded in death by one son, Kenneth. Her survivors include her husband, Charles F. of Plymouth; one son, Charles (Susan) Simpson of Luzerne; three grandchildren, Karen (Ron) Mettal of Canton, LeAnne (Dale) Booth of Plymouth, Marni Chilcoff of Plymouth; three great-grandchildren, Brandy Booth, Shannon Booth, Ashley Chilcoff; three sisters, Freida O'Leary of Northville, Esther Budd of Luzerne, and Dorothy Powell of Luzerne.

Memorials may be made to the American Red Cross.

GARY ROBERT OLDS

Services for Gary Robert Olds, 41, of Tower, Mich. were held Jan. 13 at the Wolverine Baptist Church, with the Rev. Orville Theaker officiating the service.

Mr. Olds was born on Jan. 22, 1956 in Detroit. He died Jan. 10. He was the son of Robert and Martha (Rea) Olds.

He will be deeply missed by many. He grew up and attended school in Plymouth. On Jan. 16, 1982, Mr. Olds married Linda Scruggs in Salem.

For many years he worked with his father and uncle who owned Plymouth Lawn Company. In 1991, Mr. Olds moved with his family to Tower.

He was employed by Burns Clinic with the maintenance department.

He was one that loved the Lord and served him faithfully and touched many lives.

He enjoyed fishing, hunting and golfing. He was a member of the Wolverine Baptist Church.

His survivors include his wife, Linda; three daughters, Elisabeth, Mary Hannah; in-laws, Richard and Carol Scruggs of Plymouth; parents Bob and Lavern Olds of Wolverine; one brother, Steven (Lola) of Belleville; one sister, Lisa (Kenneth) Burns

of Alanson; grandparents, Roland Olds and Leona Harper; and many aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be made to the family of Gary Olds, c/o Richard & Carol Scruggs, 9314 Sheldon Rd., Plymouth, MI 48170.

PATRICIA G. REILLY

Services for Patricia G. Reilly, 66, of Westland were held Jan. 19 at St. Mary Catholic Church in Wayne, with the Rev. Jack H. Baker officiating. Burial was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield.

Mrs. Reilly was born on Dec. 1, 1932, in Pittston, Pa. She died on Jan. 15 in Westland. She worked as a tax preparer for H & R Block for 22 years.

She came to Westland in 1964 from Washington, D.C. She attended one year of college at St. John's Business College.

From 1952 to 1964, she was an administrative assistant with the CIA in Washington, D.C.

Her hobbies included cross stitch, her grandchildren and listening to good band music.

Her survivors include her husband, Charles P. Reilly; two daughters, Colleen (Kenneth) MacDonald of Plymouth, Kathleen Reilly of Westland; one son,

Charles P. Reilly Jr. of Westland; three sisters, Constance (Richard) Lunsford of Falls Church, Va., Cecelia (Reyes) Ponce of Alexandria, Va., Mary (Lonnie) Piatt of Hunlock Creek, Pa.; two brothers, William Hoover of Wyoming, Pa., Brian (Priscilla) Hoover of Pittston, Pa.; her father, William T. Hoover of Harveys Lake, Pa.; and two grandchildren, Stephanie and Megan.

Memorials may be made in Mass offerings to St. Mary's or to Angela Hospice, 14100 Newburgh, Livonia 48154.

DOROTHY E. MOORE

A funeral Mass will be held for Dorothy E. Moore, 63, of Naples, Fla., 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 24, at the First United Methodist Church.

She was born in Ann Arbor, and died on Jan. 14. She was a longtime resident of Plymouth, where she and her husband owned and operated the A & W restaurant for 28 years before moving to Naples, Fla., in 1986.

She was preceded in death by one son, Steven. Her survivors include her husband, Charles; four sons, Charles Jr. (Judy) of Westland, Melvin (Debra) of Plymouth, Richard (Lisa) of

Columbia, Tenn., Daniel of Naples, Fla.; one daughter, Debra (Terry Robinson) of Dexter; six brothers, Melvin (Carol) Gilbertson of Dexter, Art (Bert) Gilbertson of Lewiston, Andy (Iielen) Gilbertson of Monroe, David Gilbertson of Ann Arbor, James (Sheila) Gilbertson of Ann Arbor, John (Bernie) Gilbertson of Ann Arbor; one sister, Diane (Bob) McGill of Harriet, Ark.; and 10 grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society, 990 First Ave. South, Suite 200, Naples, Fla. 34102.

JOHN A. SCHMITZ

Private services were held for John A. Schmitz, 61, of Redford. Local arrangements were made by the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home.

Mr. Schmitz was born on March 21, 1936, in Detroit. He died on Jan. 19 in Redford.

He was a driver with the Deluxe Cab Company, and he served in the Army for a regular tour of duty.

His survivors include his two brothers, Adelbert G. Schmitz of Northville, and Thomas (Joyce) Schmitz of Plymouth.

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THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY



Jeff Haas trio with Marvin Kahn presents an evening of jazz classics and original music 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Borders Books & Music in Birmingham, 3430 Woodward, (248) 203-0005.

SATURDAY

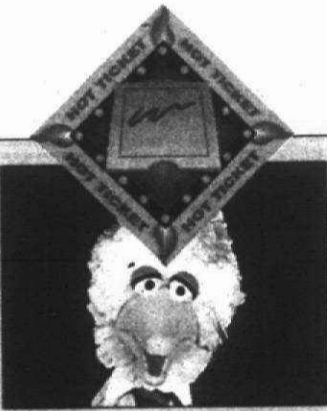


Hilary Hernandez and Danielle Paccione are featured in "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland," a Pontiac Theatre IV presentation, 7:30 p.m. at Pontiac Northern High School, (248) 681-6215.

SUNDAY



Lisa Bucchi, Melissa Lardo and Jerod Fish in The Rising Stars production of "The Crucible," noon at Andover High School in Bloomfield Hills, (248) 433-0885.



Hot Tix: See Big Bird and his pals in Sesame Street Live's "1-2-3... Imagine!" through Sunday, Feb. 1 at the Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Call (248) 433-1515 to charge tickets, or (313) 983-6611 for more information.



Prolific: Elmore "Dutch" Leonard is the author of 34 novels, many of which have been made into films. His latest, "Cuba Libre," an historical novel, arrives in bookstores this week.

Dutch's Treat

Elmore Leonard as memorable as his characters

BY FRANK PROVENZANO • STAFF WRITER

It's a cold, rainy afternoon, and the familiar bearded man with a scholar's inquisitive expression sits behind an IBM electric typewriter. He could be off writing anywhere in the world, from the sunny south of France to the sultry South Pacific.

But he's content suffering amid the drizzle, brisk winds and sub-freezing chill of another ornery Michigan January. Why?

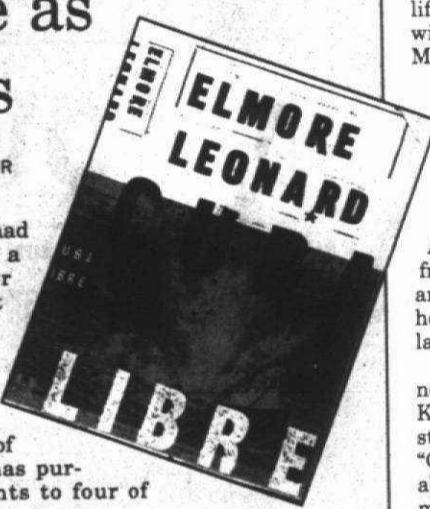
"All my stuff is here," said Elmore "Dutch" Leonard of Bloomfield Village, whose deadpan response resembles his laconic prose.

Ironically, it seems like Dutch is everywhere. Detroit. Miami. L.A. And now, with his latest book, "Cuba Libre," he's marching up and around San Juan Hill at the turn of the 20th century, on the eve of the Spanish American War.

For years, Leonard and writers of the crime genre

like Ed McBain have had legions of readers. As a teenager, filmmaker Quentin Tarantino got caught stealing a copy of Leonard's "The Switch." An incident that Leonard clearly covets as a high form of flattery. (Tarantino has purchased the film rights to four of Leonard's novels.)

While crime fiction has been around since the days of Dostoevsky and Dickens, Leonard's genius for distilling dialogue and drawing vivid portraits of



Please see **TREAT**, E2



Contemporary comedy: John Travolta stars as Chili Palmer, a Miami loan shark who goes to Los Angeles to collect on a gambling debt and winds up in the movie business in "Get Shorty."

PHOTO: ZARREN/METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER INC.

Halley's Comet inspires actor

BY HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

In 1986, Halley's Comet made another sweep near Earth, as it does every 76 years.

Actor John Amos had gone out to take a look when he happened upon an elderly gentleman and his multi-generational family staring into the sky. That image was an inspiration.

"I began to imagine what it was like to live when he did and that he saw the comet as a child. I had a beginning and an end and decided I'd go and see if I could write a middle," Amos said.

The result is "Halley's Comet," a one-man performance in which Amos plays an elderly man looking back over his life and this century in a conversation with the comet. The play comes to the Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts in Detroit Jan. 28 to Feb. 1.

"It has been a rewarding experience, the way it has been received here and abroad. There seems to be a common chord, people like to hear about olden days and about the values of those days," Amos said, in telephone interview from upstate New York, where he had arrived after being delayed several hours in Virginia by the heavy snowfall last week.

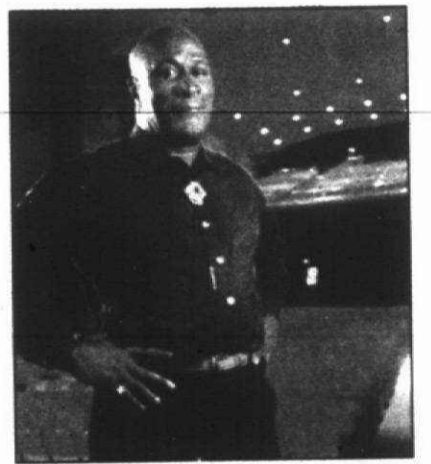
Amos, best known for his Emmy-nominated performance as the adult Kunte Kinte in "Roots" and as the strong father in the situation comedy "Good Times," has put his own concerns about declining values in his performance as the nameless 87-year-old man.

"He has a dialogue with the comet," Amos said, slipping into the old man's voice, "Comet, we used to have something called an extended family and you had a right to chatise a child ... you put a hand on a child today and you're in trouble with the police and the FBI." He's confused about what happened to those old values and why they're not applied today."

Amos said he has combined humor and drama. The play begins as the old man is on his front porch, running late for his appointment with the comet he last saw when he was an 11-year-old boy. He's been married three times and buried two wives. He's also buried three sons in war and a daughter in the civil rights struggles of the '60s.

Amos started with a one-act play in 1989 and then expanded to the present two-act, two-hour presentation. He has performed the play throughout the United States and around the world. He is currently on a tour through the beginning of April.

Please see **COMET**, E2



John Amos: Actor and playwright

COLLEGE THEATER

Students present dramas that passed the test of time

Modern drama: Kelly Komlen of Livonia poses for the last portrait of "The Jewish Wife," one of three Bertolt Brecht one act plays showing in Wayne State University's Studio Theatre.



BY KEELY WYGONIK
STAFF WRITER

In intimate studio theaters, students at Oakland and Wayne State Universities are presenting plays by 20th century storytellers whose works share a sense of place and humanity.

Opening tonight is Oakland University's telling of Thornton Wilder's "Our Town," and at Wayne State, three one-act plays by Bertolt Brecht — "The Jewish Wife," "The Informer," and "The Elephant Calf."

Wilder's "Our Town" is Grover's Corners, New Hampshire, in the early 1900s.

Brecht wrote about Nazi Germany during the 1930s while Adolph Hitler was developing his "Final Solution."

"We're trying to help our students become better storytellers," said Karen Sheridan, associate professor



Drama: George Gibbs (Matthew Hammond) is smitten with Emily Webb (Keri Dennis) in the Pulitzer Prize winning play "Our Town," to be presented at Oakland University's Studio Theatre.

of theater, who is directing "Our Town" at Oakland University. "I think more and more this age of computers, e-mail, and phones stands in the way of that person-to-person communication. We need to find a balance, or we could lose our souls. It's important to stay in touch with words and how they sound and not just how they look on screen."

Oakland University

Wilder said "Our Town" (which opened at the McCarter Theatre in Princeton, N.J. on Jan. 22, 1938) was an attempt to find value beyond all price for the smallest events of our daily life.

"I think it's a beautiful story," said Sheridan. The play is part of the university's Festival of Arts saluting the 20th century, which continues

Please see **STUDENTS**, E2

On Stage

Oakland University Department of Music, Theatre and Dance

"Our Town" by Thornton Wilder

Thursday, Jan. 22, through Sunday, Feb. 1
Studio Theatre, Varner Hall, Oakland University, Rochester

Performances:

- 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Jan. 22-24
- 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 25
- 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 30-31
- 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 1.

Student matinees 10 a.m. Tuesday-Wednesday, Jan. 27-28
Tickets: \$10 general admission, \$8 senior citizens, \$5 students, call (248) 370-3013. Tickets also available one hour before performance time at the Studio Theatre Box Office.

Wayne State University Studio Theatre

"THE JEWISH WIFE" • "THE INFORMER" • "THE ELEPHANT CALF"

Three one-act plays by Bertolt Brecht

Thursday, Jan. 22, through Sunday, Feb. 1, downstairs at the Hilberry Theatre (corner of Cass and Hancock), Detroit

Performances:

- 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Jan. 22-24 and Jan. 29-31
- 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 25 and Feb. 1.

Tickets: \$7 general admission, \$5 senior citizens and WSU staff, Alumni Association members, and students. Call (313) 577-2972.

Treat from page E1

low-life loan-sharks, mobsters, bounty hunters and hustlers littering the American landscape has attracted a wider audience. Definitely hip The critical body of Leonard's 34 novels include "Out of Sight," "Riding the Rap," "Get Shorty," "City Primeval," "Stick," "LaBrava," "Swag," "The Hunted" and "52 Pick-Up."

For years, however, the film versions of Leonard's novels got panned ("Stick" with Burt Reynolds). But that's changing as his deadpan characters are being treated with a three-dimensional edge. Two of his recent novels, "Get Shorty" and "Rum Punch" have received critical and popular acclaim.

The breakout 1995 hit, "Get Shorty," starred John Travolta, Danny DeVito, Renee Russo and Gene Hackman. With the success of "Get Shorty," moviegoers were treated to the hilarious serious-

ness of Chili Palmer (Travolta), a vacant soul who is delightfully entertaining. In "Jackie Brown," currently in theaters, Tarantino modified the plot, changed the lead character and augmented the dialogue of "Rum Punch."

"The dialogue starts out as mine, but Quentin elaborates on it. When you put (the story) in his hands, there's going to be more of him than me in it. I think with us, there's a natural partnership."

After four decades as a novelist and screenwriter, all the recent attention from readers, publishers, Hollywood producers and literary critics just isn't to honor Leonard's longevity or prolific output.

Leonard has seemingly crossed over from crime genre writer into the mainstream melting pot of American popular culture. "He's the person to whom every other crime writer is compared," said Jackie Farber, Leonard's longtime editor at Delacorte Press. "He mines the sights and sounds of a scene and is extremely careful about point of view."

In the mid 1980s, according to Farber, with the publishing of "LaBrava" and "City Primeval," Leonard began attracting favorable critical reviews in The New Yorker, The New York Review of Books, among other prestigious publications.

that has found a way into the much-awaited sequel to "Get Shorty." "I'm on page 170-something," said Leonard, sitting at a desk in his spacious living room. From his vantage point, Leonard looks through the French doors and onto a sprawling yard that includes a tennis court and swimming pool.

The sequel was undertaken because of his interest in resurrecting Chili Palmer and the prodding of MGM top executive Frank Mancuso and Travolta. "Chili Palmer is in the music business," said Leonard. "In 'Get Shorty,' the mobster Palmer concludes that the film business is not too different from his regular line of work."

"I ran the idea past my researcher and Travolta, and they loved it," he said. But before Travolta reprises the role, it's likely that Universal will produce "Cuba Libre." The screen adaptation is in the hands of " Fargo " directors, Joel and Ethan Coen.

Mainstream Hollywood has finally caught on to the wry appeal of Leonard's stories. In the words of British novelist Martin Amis - a wicked wit not known to dish praise - Leonard is as American as jazz.

In a glowing review of "Riding the Rap" in The New York Times Book Review, Amis observed: "(Leonard) understands the post-modern world of wisecrapping and zero authenticity."

GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

General Cinemas, Showcase Pontiac, Star Rochester Hills, United Artists Oakland, 994 Livonia Mall, Devon's Advocare, Waterford Cinema II, 24 Hour Movie Line, United Artists, Terrace Cinema, Sun-Thurs, Main Art Theatre III, Birmingham Theatre, MTR Theatres, Star Winchester, Showcase Westland, Star Theatres, Showcase Dearborn, Star Theatres, Star Theatres.

Comet from page E1

"It has been one of the most gratifying experiences I've had writing skits to the Los Angeles comedy show 'Loman and Barkley.' Comedy writing led to comedy acting. 'Halley's Comet' is dedicated to the memory of the late Alex Haley, author of the best-selling book 'Roots' on which the phenomenally successful TV mini-series was based.

Amos called Haley a quiet, unobtrusive man who nonetheless had an aura about him of 'a man at peace with himself.' Though 'Halley's Comet' is Amos' first play, he actually began his career as a writer. He was a copy writer for an adver-

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Singer takes strong approach to writing love songs



CHRISTINA FUOCO singer/songwriter

The last time Boston pop singer Jen Trynin played the Detroit area, she was overcome with a feeling of sadness. "I was taking a walk that afternoon all over the place. It was kind of warm but not too hot. There was something incredibly striking about the city."

Trynin took the recording process in a different direction than her debut "Cockamamie" (Warner Bros.). "Cockamamie" took a longer period of time. We did it spottily with a bunch of different people. Mike Denneen (the producer) and I were trying to make a record that sounded cohesive. We wanted to give it as much as a trio rock sound as we could get. We wanted to make it relatively consistent even though there were so many people who played on it."

ELVIS THE CONCERT If you never saw ELVIS LIVE... This is as close as it gets! The tour has been dialed up as if the King were still alive. Elvis not only sings, but he moves the show along with dialogue and introductions.

1-2-3... IMAGINE! January 21-February 1 Fox Theatre * Book Swap January 22, 1998 - 7 p.m. performance Sponsored by Young Country and The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

STREET SCENE

Singer takes strong approach to writing love songs

hugely part of life." She cited as an example her melancholy first single, "Get-away," which sounds as if it was written about a lover on the verge of leaving. "Don't lie don't tell me that we're leaving you could never go. Don't cry don't put your arms around me. I already know you got nowhere to go."

Trynin took the recording process in a different direction than her debut "Cockamamie" (Warner Bros.). "Cockamamie" took a longer period of time. We did it spottily with a bunch of different people. Mike Denneen (the producer) and I were trying to make a record that sounded cohesive. We wanted to give it as much as a trio rock sound as we could get. We wanted to make it relatively consistent even though there were so many people who played on it."

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music in a more kind of rock way." Jen Trynin performs Wednesday, Jan. 28, at the 7th House, 7 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. for the 18 and older show. Tickets are \$8 in advance. For more information, call (248) 335-8100 or visit http://www.961melt.com

Trynin took the recording process in a different direction than her debut "Cockamamie" (Warner Bros.). "Cockamamie" took a longer period of time. We did it spottily with a bunch of different people. Mike Denneen (the producer) and I were trying to make a record that sounded cohesive. We wanted to give it as much as a trio rock sound as we could get. We wanted to make it relatively consistent even though there were so many people who played on it."

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