

# Canton Observer

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## THE WEEK AHEAD

### MONDAY

**Local government:** The Canton Planning Commission holds a regular meeting at 7 p.m. in the administration building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road.

### TUESDAY

**Opening day:** The Canton Historical Museum opens for the 1999 season. Hours for the museum are 1-3 p.m. Tuesdays and 1-4 p.m. Saturdays. Guided tours are available. The museum is on Canton Center Road at Heritage Drive. Parking is at the rear of the building. For more information, call (734) 397-0088.

**Kiwanis:** Plymouth-Canton Morning Kiwanis will hold its weekly 7 a.m. breakfast at the Water Club Grill, Ann Arbor Road, east of I-275 in Plymouth Township.

### WEDNESDAY

**Newcomers:** The Canton Newcomers hold their regular monthly meeting at the Sunflower Clubhouse, 45800 Hanford Road. Featured this month is "Pizza and Games Night," beginning at 7 p.m. For information, call 451-5426.

### FRIDAY

**Ice time:** The Plymouth Whalers host the Kingston Frontenacs in an Ontario Hockey League Game at Compuware Arena, Beck Road north of M-14. Game time is 7:30 p.m. For ticket information call the Whalers at 453-8400 or visit the team Web site at [www.plymouthwhalers.com](http://www.plymouthwhalers.com).

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### Kids draw a bead on lizards



**Hands-on learning:** Tara Lang, 9, (center) and her brother Devyn, 7, watch as youth librarian Nancy Voigt gives instructions on how to make a gecko – a small, lizard-like amphibian – using beads during a children's program at the Canton Library Monday. Melissa Giannini, 8, is at left rear. In the photo at right, Michelle Armer, 7, gets some assistance from youth programming specialist Kristen Tierney on her project.



STAFF PHOTOS BY PAUL HURSCHEMANN

## Charter school draws flak

**Residents in Canton's Royal Pointe subdivision are concerned about the materials and durability of a charter school planned for their neighborhood.**

BY TONY BRUSCATO  
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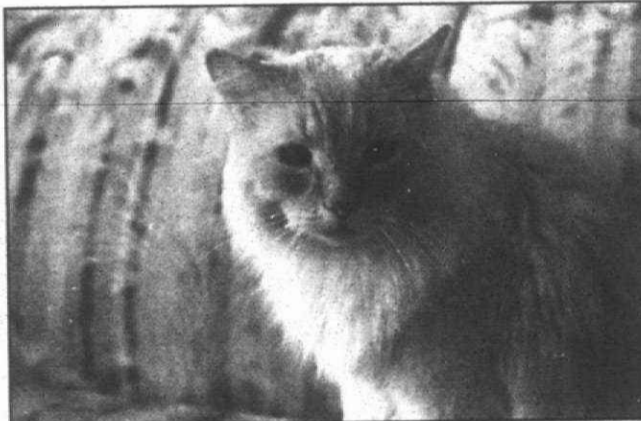
Residents of Royal Pointe Subdivision in Canton say a proposed charter school to be built in their backyards will lower property values and increase traffic around their homes. "The school isn't the same quality as our homes. It's substandard and doesn't belong in our neighborhood." That was a main concern of the nearly 25 people who met Wednesday night with a representative of National Heritage Academies, which plans to build the charter school on Beck Road, north of Hanford, in time for the next school year. Many of the residents said they wouldn't mind a school in their neighborhood if it was built with brick, like some of the neighboring public and private schools. The next time the two sides will square off is at Monday's Canton Township Planning Commission meet-

Please see **CHARTER SCHOOL, A2**

## Precious journey: Cat takes 6-mile stroll

BY SCOTT DANIEL  
STAFF WRITER  
[sdaniel@oe.homecomm.net](mailto:sdaniel@oe.homecomm.net)

The world's smartest, or perhaps luckiest, cat may just reside in Canton. Precious, an 8-year-old Siamese mix, recently made a 6-mile journey from his new to old home – on foot. He survived a week on his own and crossed numerous busy roads before finally being found. "It's my own personal mini-miracle that we could get him back," said owner Mary Allen. "I love him. He's my boy." Sandy Edwards, Allen's neighbor on Cranberry Street for the better part of a decade, spotted Precious Monday. Ironically, it was a week nearly to the minute from when the cat left his new digs on Oakham Court. "I was amazed when I saw Precious," said Edwards, who was getting ready for work at about 7:30 a.m. "I threw everything down and ran outside for him." Actually, it was her cat, Sage, Precious' son, that first saw him. "He was sitting on the ledge of our front window looking out," said Edwards. "His tale was going a mile a minute. I opened the front door and



**Back home:** Precious the cat rests comfortably Wednesday at Mary Allen's new home in Canton.

there was Precious going through our garbage." You might say it was the end of Precious' Excellent Adventure. The story begins with the Allens' move. After living on Cranberry, which sits south of Joy Road and just east of Sheldon, for 19 years, the couple decided it was time for a change. **Moving time** So in late December, the Allens moved to a brand new home on

moved, sitting by the door wanting to go outside." But she wouldn't allow Precious to go out until he got used to his new home. "We were really cautioned by cat lovers to make sure our cats stay in the house for at least three months," said Allen. That plan was working well until Precious found a way out. Allen got up about 7 a.m. Feb. 15 to take her dogs for a walk. Unknown to her at the time, the wind had blown a side door ajar leading to her open garage. Precious hit the road. When she came back from the walk to feed the dogs and her cats, he wasn't anywhere to be found. "It wasn't like him to miss a meal," Allen said.

**Thorough search** Soon, the search was on. The Allens looked around the home, questioned workers and tramped through nearby woods. No luck. "It was as if he had evaporated," said Allen. "But I couldn't believe he got that far that fast." In the days that followed, the couple

Please see **JOURNEY, A4**

## Pianists take to stage for conservatory gala

BY SCOTT DANIEL  
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If classical music is your passion, March 13 is a day to mark on your calendar. That's when the Southeast Michigan Arts Conservatory will hold its grand opening concert. Classical pianists Dimas Caraballo and Jia Li will be featured starting at 7:30 p.m. "I've never ever heard anyone better than her," Conservatory Director Jeffrey Myers said of Li. "She's extremely gifted." The concert is a kickoff for three months worth of celebration. Productions of "The Wizard of Oz," a murder mystery and a performance by the University of Michigan jazz band are planned through May. The arts conservatory actually opened last June. Myers said he

### GRAND OPENING

wanted the center to become established before holding such a celebration. "We wanted to get our feet on the ground," he added, "and have staff in place." The conservatory has undergone major growth since opening eight months ago. A staff of seven instructors has jumped to more than two dozen. Student population has grown from 88 in those first few weeks to well over 700. "We finally have all of our departments together," Myers added. Music, dance and drama classes are taught weekly. Private musical lessons are also given. Please see **CONSERVATORY, A6**

## Rouge Friends hop into action with frog watch

BY LILLY A. EVANS  
STAFF WRITER

Friends, families, children and nature lovers will leap at this community opportunity. Friends of the Rouge is extending its frog and toad survey to include the headwaters of both the Middle and Lower Rouge rivers, which will encompass Canton, Salem, Superior and Van Buren townships, along with Novi and Northville. You don't need a frog blind, binoculars or a net. Frog and toad surveying is easily learned in a two-hour session. "You don't have to identify the different species; you just listen for different calls," explained John Bingamon, director of public involvement for Friends of the Rouge. Last year's survey was a great success, he said. "Quite a few people wrote in afterwards and said they went out with their kids as a family project and it was a fun thing to do and they would like to do it again," Bingamon said.

### Area workshops

Here are the 1999 Frog and Toad Survey Training Workshops:  
■ Monday, March 1 – 7-9 p.m. at Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile  
■ Thursday, March 4 – 7-9 p.m. at Superior Township Hall, 3040 N. Prospect, Ypsilanti  
■ Saturday, March 6 – 10 a.m. noon at Canton Public Library, 1200 S. Canton Center  
■ Saturday March 13 – 10 a.m. noon at Salem Township Hall, 9600 Six Mile

Last year almost 140 individuals and groups volunteered, and Friends of the Rouge collected basic information that will become important data. The survey's purpose is to identify

Please see **FROG WATCH, A2**



Residents can speak out on new look for old area

CHERRY HILL VILLAGE

Imagine a neighborhood where homes are different shapes and sizes, made of different materials and are set close to the street. It may sound like 1939 instead of 1999. But it could become reality in Canton's Cherry Hill Village within a few years. Troy-based Biltmore Development will construct up to 1,200 single family homes and other units in the village that's centered at Cherry Hill and Ridge roads. The company is currently conducting a survey of township residents seeking input on preferences for the development. The idea is to work within a historical framework that's consistent with the heritage of the village. They recognize the specialness of Cherry Hill, Canton Trustee Melissa McLaughlin said. "They listened to the township when we said we're going to take a different approach to developing Cherry Hill."

Journey from page A1

Edwards said that she would watch for the cat. But she didn't hold out much hope that he'd show. "I didn't think he would come back," Edwards said. "When I saw him, I was amazed." Somehow, somehow, Precious did make it back to Cranberry Street. "Never mind that he had to have crossed Cherry Hill, Ford, Warren, Canton Center and Sheldon roads to get there. That's what seemed incomprehensible to me," Allen said. "That he could live and do that."

Jean

Advertisement for Jean's CD Rate Protection CD, featuring a photo of Jean and a 5.35% APY Certificate of Deposit. Text includes "We have a way for her to cash in on it." and "Join us at the Somerset Collection in a celebration of spring with all that's new and wonderful and exciting for your home and garden lifestyle."

Studio mascot has new name



Winner: Lisa Valentine was selected as the winner of D & M Studios recent "Name the Bear" contest. Lisa, 7, is a first-grader at Plymouth Christian Academy in Canton. The studio mascot, dressed as a bear cub, will go by the name "Pastel," chosen by Lisa. Laura Little, 9, is the current mascot. Lisa has been awarded \$50 in art supplies for her winning entry and a scholarship towards summer art camp.

Vandal fires BB at parked car

An 18-year-old Canton man's car was damaged Monday with a BB gun, according to township police reports. The vehicle was parked on the street in front of the home on Hanford Road. A later model Ford Probe had its windshield and driver's side door damaged. Total damage was estimated at \$700, reports said. Police have no suspects. Price tag switch. A 40-year-old Ann Arbor man was arrested by Canton police Tuesday on a charge of retail fraud. Police reports said the man was shopping at Meijer on Ford Road. Store officers watched on with a woman in the home. The 30-year-old explained that he had merely contracted the woman for adult dancing for an upcoming fraternity party. He heard a loud thud on his hood. The older man, police reports said, had pulled a "survival" knife and was stabbing the car hood. He later punctured the car's trunk and a door. The Canton man was able to escape after the woman coaxed the older man into her vehicle. No injuries were reported.

Student play finishes third in state

The Plymouth Park Players production of "Moon Over Buffalo," directed by Gloria Logan, took third place in state competition Feb. 20 at the Midland Performing Arts Center in Midland, Mich. In addition, "Moon Over Buffalo" won awards for costumes in technical and ensemble categories. The cast included: Sean Galvin, Annie Radcliffe, Liz Filios, Delanie Andrzejewski, Mike Kalis, Devin Burnstein, Pat Gray and Mike Morton. The high school students were scheduled to appear in state competition in Midland, Mich. Feb. 19 and 20.

Public input Residents want more oversight on state environmental issues

Cheryl Graunstadt of Westland said she was "fed up and frustrated" with Westland's funding of the incinerator in Dearborn Heights and the land contamination at Cooper School in Westland, now being considered for possible development. Carol Poesch of Northville and another Livonia resident wanted to hear the Department of Environmental Quality's management team's reaction to a report alleging DEQ mismanagement of Michigan wetlands and the "low morale" of DEQ employees revealed in a survey. Bill Craig of Livonia told DEQ officials he hoped they would maintain high standards in policing Wayne County's wetlands mitigation banking proposal. The DEQ asked the public for comments on current environmental laws and policies Tuesday, and that's exactly what they got during a hearing at Madonna University in Livonia, the first of a series of meetings to be held across the state. The public discussed issues ranging from Middlebelt Hill in Westland to international trash with Russell Harding, DEQ director, and chiefs and assistants from the DEQ's nine divisions covering air quality, drinking water and radiological protection, environmental assistance, geological survey, land and water management, surface water quality, storage tank and waste management. Frustrated residents. Graunstadt was angered that Westland continued to fund incinerator operations in Dearborn Heights. Out of five member communities of the Central Wayne Coun-

State commission recommends ban on genetic testing for jobs, coverage

Chair of the Senate Health Policy Committee. Group employer health insurance plans "generally do not require genetic testing or other forms of risk assessment of applicants," said the panel. The insurance industry points out that it is not common practice for health insurers to require genetic testing for obtaining or retaining policies," it added. But it noted there's no law against genetic testing. Genes are units of heredity. Many diseases and physical conditions are passed from parents to children through the genetic code. A person with genes indicating - say, colon cancer at age 45 or a bad heart - is likely to be rejected for employment and insurance, if the employer and insurer have that information. The commission was chaired by attorney Edward Goldman of the University of Michigan Health System, Ann Arbor. Among its members was Dr. David J. Aughton of William Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak. Other members included the directors of the state departments of Community Health and Civil Rights, a life insurance company attorney, a representative of the Huntington's Disease Society and health professionals. What state should do. The report hinted some recommendations weren't unanimous but gave no details of who discredited or why. The commission recommended: "Legislation to prohibit health insurers from requiring Please see TESTING, A7

COP CALLS

camera as the man allegedly switched price tags on a stereo from \$109.99 to \$49.99. He took the stereo to be checked out and the bogus price came up, reports said. The man then attempted to leave the store, but was detained by loss prevention officers. Felonious assault. A 30-year-old Canton man was the victim of a felonious assault Tuesday. He was confronted by a man in his early 40s after leaving a Geddes Road home, reports said. The man accused him of having sex

Secure hill, resident says

Craig complained of his frustration in dealing with Wayne County to secure the Middlebelt Hill site, located in Hines Park adjacent to Cooper, where soil is contaminated at that location. A bike path runs through the site. "All efforts to get minimum security have been fruitless," Craig said. Developments at Livonia's Fountain Park and Koppernick Corporate park in Canton also will be "distressing" to wetlands that flow into the Rouge River. Craig asked what percentage of wetland permit applications were denied by the DEQ. Rich Powers, chief of the DEQ's land and water management division, said about 80 percent were approved, 15 percent issued in a modified form and 5 percent were denied. Another Livonia resident believed the DEQ was not doing an adequate job for the environment, instead showing a preference to economic development, according to a report by the Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, a group of anonymous members who had this mess 40 years ago," Graunstadt said. "I don't want to see this thing repeating itself every 20 or 30 years." Graunstadt asked what was the DEQ's involvement at Cooper School. Al Howard, director of the environmental response division, said the Livonia school district has discussed redevelopment. "It would have to be done in a manner that's safe." "We would review any plan that's compatible with the waste," Dennis Drake, chief of the DEQ's air quality division, called the Dearborn Heights incinerator permit "probably the toughest air pollutant permit in the

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Advertisement for Fitness USA SUPERCENTERS GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION. Features a photo of a woman at the gym and text: "AT ALL 11 DETROIT AREA CENTERS. SPECIAL \$1 PER VISIT Never Priced Lower. Special FREE Trial Visit Plus... Grand Opening Membership Rates. FREE Deluxe Travel Bag. All first time visitors over 18, will receive this deluxe, stylish Travel Bag, perfect for dozens of different uses. FREE." Includes a list of 11 centers in the Detroit area and a disclaimer: "The Surgeon General has determined that lack of physical activity is detrimental to your health."

Advertisement for Presenting The 1999 Home & Garden Collection. Features a large decorative graphic of a vase and text: "Join us at The Somerset Collection in a celebration of spring with all that's new and wonderful and exciting for your home and garden lifestyle." Lists benefits like "Magnificent floral garden displays" and "Seminars loaded with information and ideas." Includes the event dates "MARCH 5 THROUGH APRIL 5" and contact information "248 • 643 • 6360 extension 3". Sponsor: LANCHE HUNTLEY COMPANY. Media: Observer & Eccentric! NEWSPAPERS



# Takeover from page A7

U.S. Congress to stop the federal government from taking any of the \$8 billion Michigan will receive from settlement of its lawsuit against tobacco companies.

House Resolution 14 was adopted unanimously Feb. 24 after the Republican majority shot down two Democratic amendments.

"The federal government did nothing in pursuing litigation against the tobacco industry, so why should they get a say in how we spend our money?" said Rep. Gerald Law, R-Plymouth, a co-sponsor. "Now they want to piggyback on our settlement."

Rep. Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, said Michigan's share should go into a scholarship program proposed by Gov. John Engler. Under it, high school students who pass 11th grade state assessment tests would receive \$2,500; middle school students who pass would receive \$500, for a total possible scholarship of \$3,000.

Some Democrats think part of the money should go into public health programs because tobacco is a health risk.

## Road money

House Democrats, including Rep. Tom Kelly of Wayne, are opposing Engler's executive order reorganizing the state Jobs Commission. They say it will cut nearly \$10 million in road funds intended for the 83 counties.

Engler announced his order in the State of the State, saying he wanted to split off the Workforce Development Office as a separate

## 'Sun outages' may affect cable signal

Solar disturbance periods will occur soon throughout North America, affecting cable television and satellite viewers in Ohio and Michigan from Feb. 26 to March 12. "Solar interferences" are an inherent part of satellite technology and occur about this time every year, as well as for about 16 days in the fall.

Solar interference takes place when the orbital positions of the sun and individual satellites are in one line. Satellite dishes on earth receive signals from both, but the more powerful sun subdues the satellite signal, causing a degradation of picture quality or possibly a loss of picture and sound.

The interferences, commonly referred to as "sun outages," will occur sometime in the afternoon, affecting individual satellites and satellite-delivered networks for a few minutes each day. Therefore, cable TV viewers might not be affected at all depending on which channels they are watching, or they may be affected more than once if they change channels during the period.

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rate, 20th state department. The order transfers \$9.6 million in Transportation Economic Development Funds and sends it to the Michigan Strategic Fund.

"This program will cut local road funding across the board because there is no guarantee that any of the captured funds will be returned to the counties," said Kelly. He asked Engler to rescind his original order, revise it to save the road money, and issue it again.

The executive order will take effect unless the Legislature votes to reject - unlikely because both chambers are Republican-controlled.

Kelly said Wayne County would lose \$769,000; Oakland, \$1.9 million; Livingston, \$89,000; Clinton, \$65,500; and Eaton, \$62,700.

The fund was designed to pump money into "growth" counties where industry is creating the most jobs. Oakland and Macomb have been the biggest winners.

## Road rage

"Road rage" driving would be prohibited if Senate Bill 287 becomes law, says Sen. William VanRegenmorter, R-Georgetown.

"Motorists so enraged that they use their cars as a weapon pose an incredible danger to everyone," said the chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, which reported his measure to the full Senate.

SB 287 creates three degrees of crime:

■ **Third degree** - violation of three or more specific actions in one continuous period, including unnecessary flashing or blinking of head lamps, driving 10 mph over the speed limit (or 15 mph on freeways), tailgating, passing on the shoulder and improper lane changes. Penalties: 93 days in jail, fine of \$1,000, 30-day license suspension.

■ **Second degree** - third-degree violation plus imposing a substantial risk of physical injury, or repeated third-degree offenses, or displaying a firearm. Penalties: one year in jail, \$2,000 fine, mandatory 90-day license suspension.

■ **First degree** - three or more convictions for third degree, or two or more convictions for second degree, or causing serious

injury or death. Penalties: four years in prison, \$4,000 fine, revocation of license.

## Senate bills

■ **Equal pay** - Alma Wheeler Smith, D-Salem, to prohibit wage discrimination against women by amending the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act. "Women in Michigan still typically earn 70 cents for every \$1 earned by men," Smith said.

■ **ID Shield** - Loren Bennett, R-Canton, to prohibit disclosure of such personal identification as Social Security and driver's licenses. SB 385 would ban use of Social Security numbers on mailing labels; SB 386 would ban many businesses from asking for a Social Security number as a condition of a sale or service; and SB 387 would prohibit the placing of ID numbers on handicapped parking cards.

mous DEQ employees.

Harding said the department's handling of environment and economic development "was always a balancing act" and acknowledged that some criticism had been leveled that the state wasn't doing enough work to investigate complaints, but added that the DEQ hired more personnel, about 10 in the last two years.

Powers didn't find the PEER report credible because it was completed anonymously, but the resident said the authors remained anonymous because of fear of repercussions. Powers was asked about what management was doing to improve the morale of the field workers.

Powers said: "They have my full support. We meet frequently and go to the field offices at least once a year."

## What's in the trash?

Poenisch wondered what

■ **'All efforts to get minimum security (at Middlebelt Hill, a contaminated site) have been fruitless.'**

*Bill Craig  
-Livonia resident*

garbage trucks from Canada were transporting to the BFI landfill in Salem Township. Jim Sygo, chief of DEQ's Waste Management Division, said the landfill has a "real good take" on the garbage coming in, operating a materials recycling center at the site.

Milton Scales of the DEQ's criminal investigations section said the department conducted "around the clock" inspections of the trucks to check for hazardous substances for two months at the Canadian border.

"Where we are handicapped is we don't have the ability to turn trucks back," Scales said.

Instead the DEQ strongly suggests that the trucks turn around, and they voluntarily oblige, Scales said.

Rich Badics, chair of the Rouge River Advisory Council, reminded the DEQ about the remedial action plan to clean up the Rouge River, currently under review.

"The Rouge River is at a critical stage," Badics said. "A lot of money is being spent on it. We are an advisory group with the Rouge RAP subwatershed plans. It will be critical for the DEQ to be in support."

Harding agreed, and added that the DEQ had to be certain the cleanup was a "bottom-up process," involving the local communities. About \$50 million in grants were available to tackle "non-point" storm sewer sources of contamination.

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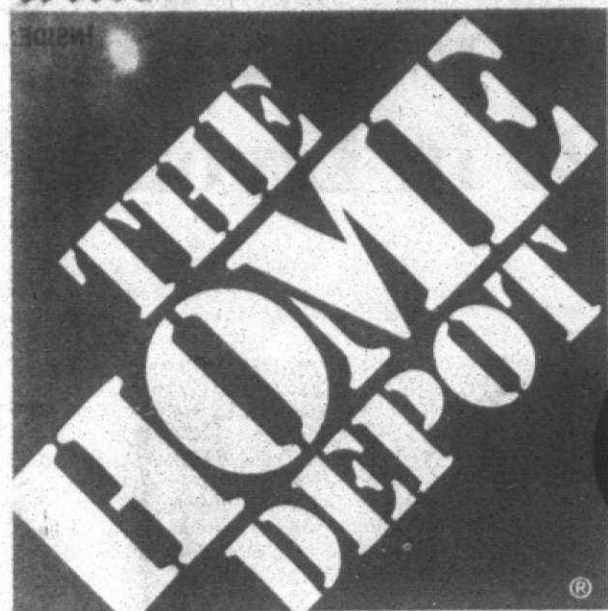






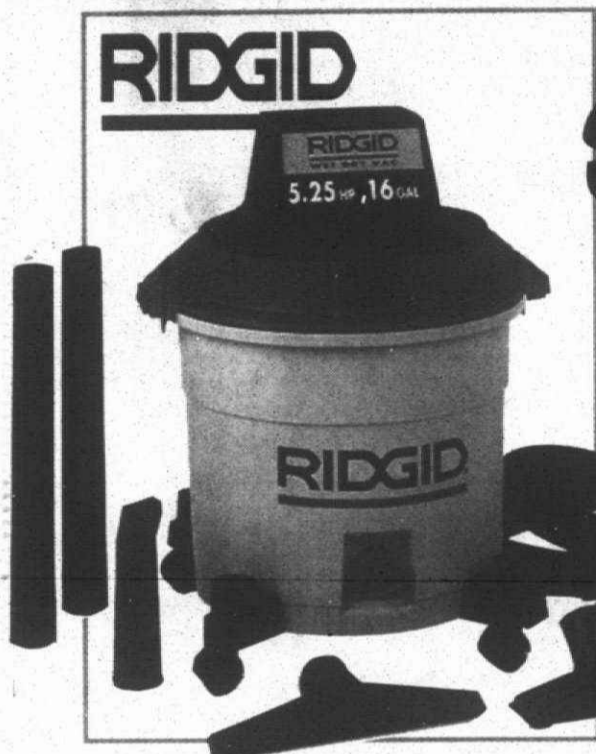






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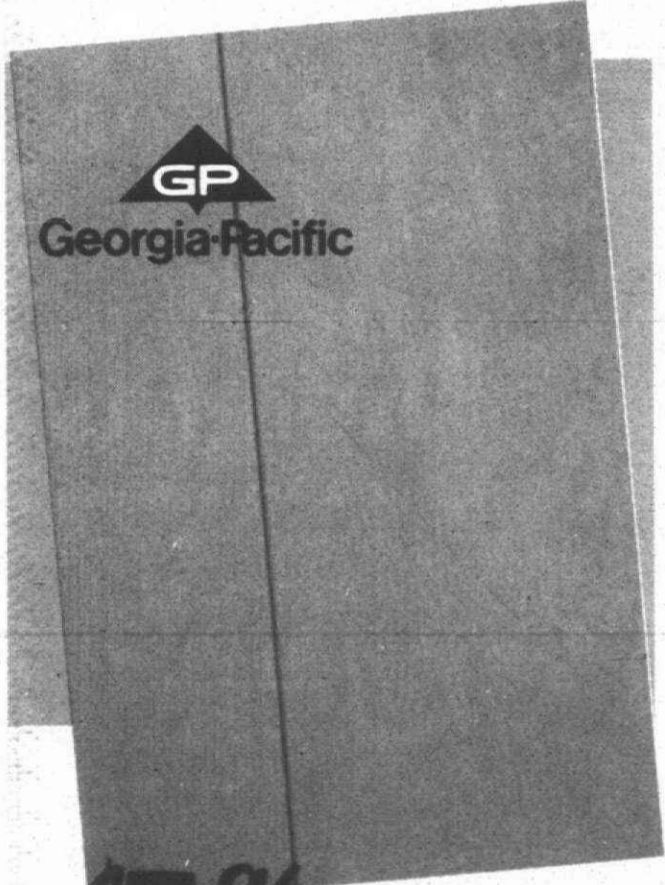
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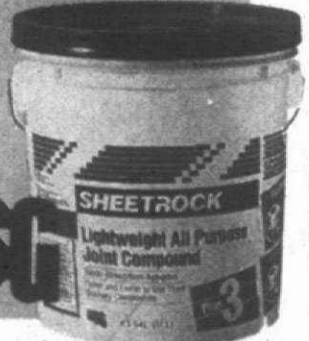


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## ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS



LINDA ANN CHOMIN

### Prodigy pianist at 14 already ahead of his time

Calvin Cullen beamed proudly as he turned the pages of a Gershwin concerto for his 14-year-old son Joshua. The two make quite a team. Joshua makes the keyboards sing as Calvin suggests passages to play from the concerto his son will perform with the Livonia Symphony Orchestra March 6.

This is the first of several times that Cullen, a second-year student at the University of Michigan School of



Joshua Cullen

"By George, By Josh"

**WHAT:** The Livonia Symphony Orchestra and guest pianist Joshua Cullen perform George Gershwin's "Concerto in F."

**WHEN:** 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 6.

**WHERE:** Churchill High School auditorium, 8900 Newburgh, (north of Joy Road), Livonia.

**TICKETS:** \$15 adults, \$8 children ages 8 and under, call (248) 645-6666, (734) 464-2741 or (734) 421-1111.

different rhythms and syncopations and the second movement is a blues styles."

Cullen rehearses the concerto 3-4 hours a day depending on the amount of homework he has to do in order to maintain his 3.9 grade point average. Education is a must as far as Calvin is concerned. A graduate of the East-

Please see **EXPRESSIONS**, C2

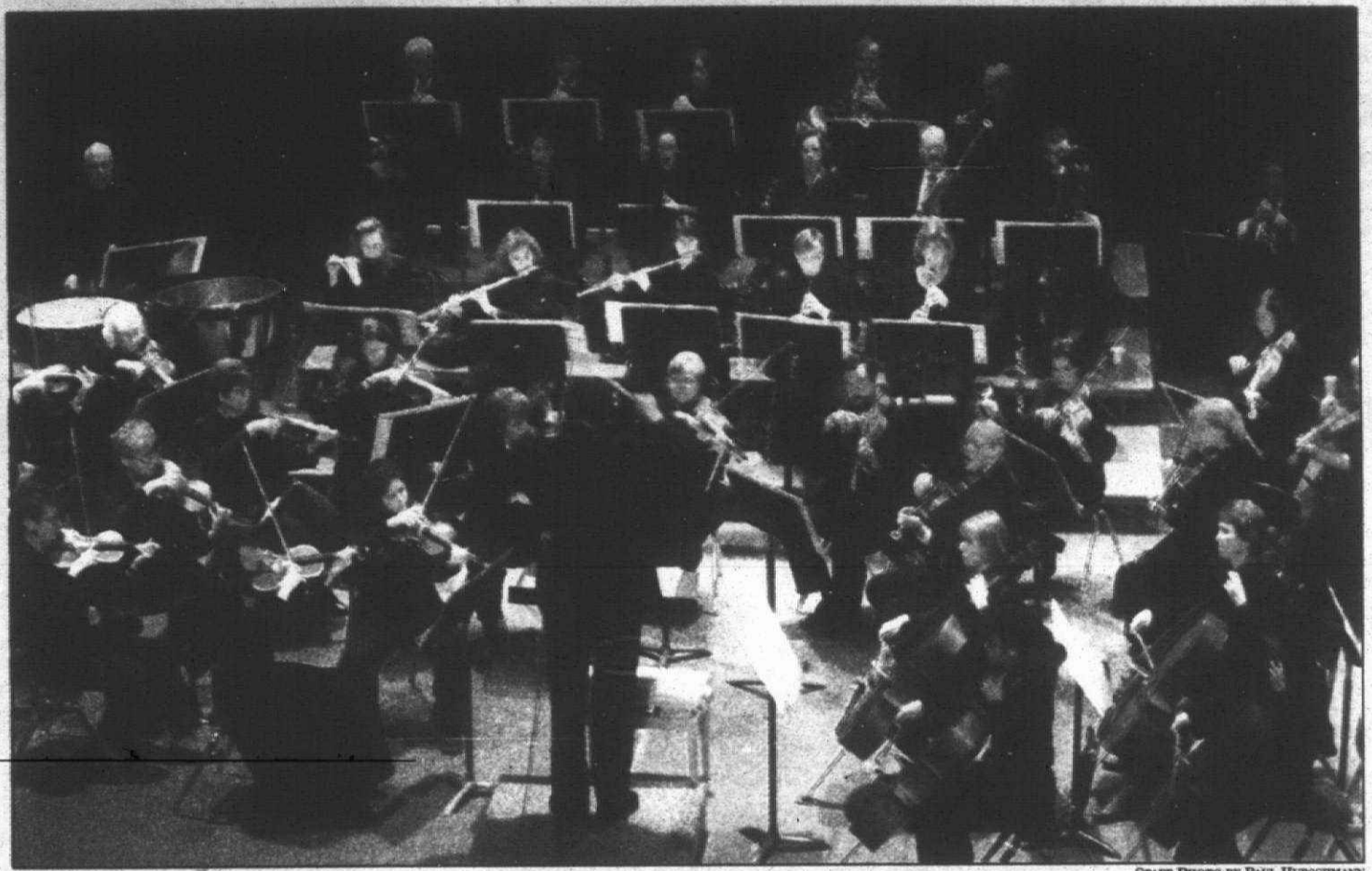
### O&E hosts roundtable discussion

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers is hosting its fifth roundtable discussion — "Facing the Music: Orchestras, Chamber and Vocal Music Groups make overtures to attract a changing audience, pay their pipers and build an audience for tomorrow," 6:30-9 p.m., Tuesday, March 9, at the Southfield Centre for the Arts, 24350 Southfield Road (south of 10 Mile Road, north of the Lodge Freeway) in Southfield.

You're invited to attend this discussion about the role music plays in enhancing the communities the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers serve. If you belong to a music group, we invite you to bring your members, and information about upcoming concerts. You'll have an opportunity to ask questions and participate in our discussion.

Panelists include Don Soenen, president of the Plymouth Symphony Board; Louis G. Spisto, president of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra; Carla Lamphere, executive director Birmingham-Bloomfield Symphony; Christine Bonner, executive director of the Detroit Oratorio Society; Maury Okun, executive director Detroit Chamber Winds & Strings; and Volodymyr Schesiuk, conductor of the Livonia Symphony Orchestra.

Please call Keely Wygonik, (734) 953-2105, Linda Chomin, (734) 953-2145 or Frank Provenzano, (248) 901-2557 if you have any questions.



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURCHMANN

**Intro to music:** The Plymouth Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of guest conductor Anthony Elliott, introduced fourth graders to classical music during two concerts at Plymouth Salem High School.

## Teen-age musicians

# strike a chord

### with third, fourth graders

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
STAFF WRITER  
lchomin@homecomm.net

Allegra Lilly's hands moved effortlessly over her harp as she performed a Mozart concerto with 14-year old flutist Ashley Hopkins and the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra on Feb. 18. The Bloomfield Hills harpist/pianist, also 14, never dreamed when she saw her first symphony concert at age 5 that she would perform with an orchestra on stage one day.

The concert at Plymouth Salem High School was the culmination of the first year of educational presentations funded by orchestra president Don Soenen and his wife Colleen for Plymouth Canton third and fourth graders. Lilly hoped to impart a love for the music in the young audience just as her first concert did years earlier.

"I enjoyed performing because when I started my orchestral music my mom would take me to con-

certs. I was really inspired by musicians when I was young," said Lilly, a student of Plymouth Symphony Orchestra harpist Ruth Myers, and winner of the Millennium Prodigy Scholarship from the James Tatum Foundation for the Arts.

That's exactly what the Soenens had in mind when they funded the Educational Outreach Program — to encourage future generations to develop an appreciation for classical music. With assistance from Superintendent Charles Little and

the Plymouth Canton Community Schools, the orchestra is using the Soenens' grant of \$40,000 to introduce third and fourth grade students to the wonder of Chopin and Shostakovich over a two year period. In October, a "Prelude" program for fourth graders at each private and public school in Plymouth and Canton, acquainted students with orchestral instruments and sounds through demonstrations by quartets made up of orchestra members.

During Soenen's introduction of

the orchestra before the two 45-minute concerts Feb. 18, he asked students to make music an important part of their life. Just as Soenen enjoys many activities from driving race cars to riding his Harley-Davidson motorcycle, he told the students, they shouldn't limit their range of leisure time activities. Backstage after the first concert, Soenen's enthusiasm for the educational project overflowed as he talked about the program.

### Great fun

"The concerts are great fun," said Soenen. "I felt the project was worthwhile. An individual can always come up with a reason it can't be done. If you believe in it, you have to make it happen."

Attracting future audiences is only one reason Soenen believes the outreach program is beneficial. Yes, the concerts will attract a

Please see **MUSICIANS**, C2

### "From Dance to Stage to Screen"

**WHAT:** Support the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra as it performs a range of music from "Les Miserables" to "Titanic" at its annual dinner/auction Pops Concert with guest conductor Gerard Yun. The event is the orchestra's major fundraiser.

**WHEN:** 6 p.m. Friday, March 12.

**WHERE:** Laurel Manor, 39000 Schoolcraft, Livonia.

**TICKETS:** \$45 adults, \$25 children, includes cocktails, dinner, silent and live auctions, and a concert by the orchestra, call (734) 451-2112.

## THE ART OF HELPING

# Masks reveal faces of homelessness



**Colorful creations:** Celebrities, artists, politicians and students painted ceramic masks for the Coalition on Temporary Shelter's MASKorAIDE auction to benefit programs to change the face of homelessness in Detroit.

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
STAFF WRITER  
lchomin@oe.homecomm.net

Imagine owning a mask painted by skater Tara Lipinski, Gov. John Engler, The Temptations, or the University of Michigan football team. MASKorAide, an auction to benefit COTS (Coalition on Temporary Shelter) makes it possible to hang one of more than 100 ceramic masks created by politicians, business owners, media personalities, and artists such as Gilda Snowden and Carlos Diaz, chairman of the photography department at Center for Creative Studies and a former Livonia resident.

Celebrities from Jeff Bridges to Rosie O'Donnell, Detroit Red Wing Brendan Shanahan, and Mary Wilson (The Supremes) also lent a hand. Wilson grew up in the Brewster Projects and would have ended up homeless if not for the help of others. That's the reason the singer decided to paint a face on homelessness when COTS asked.

Modeled after a Denver Hospice Society fund-raiser, MASKorAIDE will treat guests to dinner, live music and a silent auction of the life-size masks. COTS hopes to raise \$50,000 through the event.

"We're really excited about the response to painting the masks," said Molly Higgins, mask committee co-chair and a Birmingham resident. Husband Dr. Robert Higgins, surgical director of thoracic transplants at Henry Ford Hospital, co-chairs the auction with Beth McKeown. "The auction is important to raise awareness of the homeless, what a prevalent problem this is. COTS is a wonderful cause. When you hear the stories, these were productive people who are now homeless. COTS helps them help themselves by providing education, housing and even childcare until they can get back on their feet."

Please see **MASKS**, C2



### "MASKorAide for COTS"

**WHAT:** Celebrities, artists, business owners, politicians, and media personalities paint masks for an auction to benefit the Coalition on Temporary Shelter. Raffles for ski vacation in Swiss Alps, and a one-year lease on a BMW Z3 Roadster. Only 300 tickets (\$100 each) will be sold for BMW raffle.

**WHEN:** 6:30 p.m. to midnight Saturday, March 13.

**WHERE:** Athenum Hotel, International Banquet Center, Greektown in Detroit  
Tickets: \$100 per person, call (313) 833-3777.







TRAVEL

# Aruba? St. Martin? To each her own in Caribbean

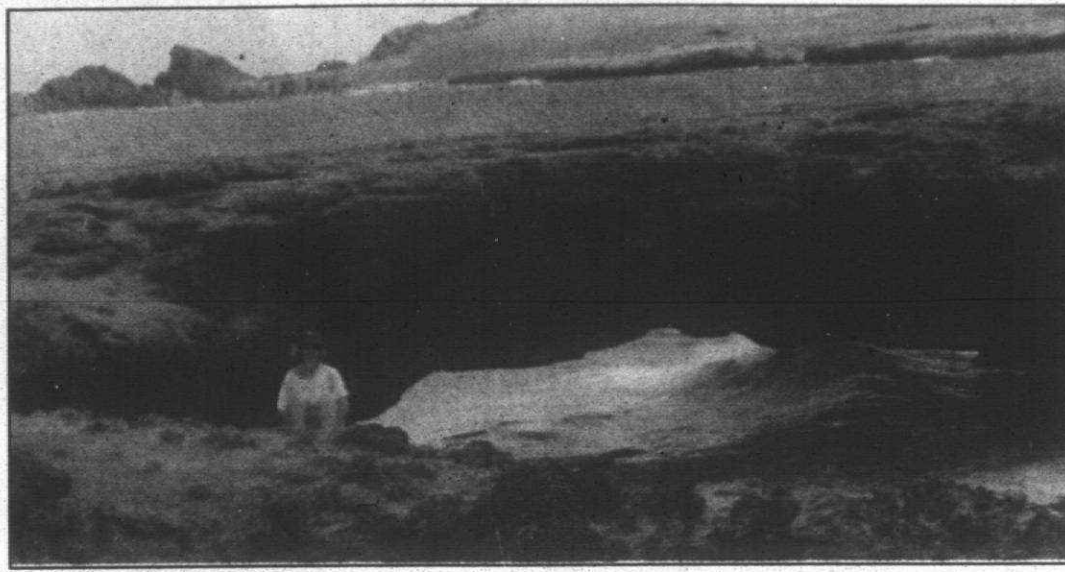
BY JUDITH DONER BERNE  
SPECIAL WRITER

We hadn't set foot on a Caribbean Island in almost 20 years. And, then, business-prompted trips landed us first on St. Martin/St. Maarten and then on Aruba within a two-week period in December.

We stayed and certainly spent more time on the French side of St. Martin/St. Maarten, which was peacefully divided in 1648 between the Dutch and French. But the French have done a better job of preserving their culture and presenting it to visitors.

That is probably best shown by contrasting the two major cities, Marigot and Philipsburg. Marigot can only be described as charming. French boutiques and Parisian-style indoor/outdoor cafes and bistros encircle the waterfront, where marinas harbor a slew of expensive yachts. Unfortunately, with that comes a bit of French arrogance, which translated for us in difficulty finding a restroom and a somewhat reserved atmosphere even at our own hotel, L'Habitat-Le Meridien.

Philipsburg, on the other hand, is very unattractive despite its location on the water. Shops are lined up, their backs to the shore line, hawking goods



**Scenic landmark:** Writer Judith Doner Berne sits by a 100-foot-long natural bridge carved out of coral rock by the surf on the northern coast of Aruba.



**Intimate escape:** The beaches on St. Martin are tucked away in small coves.

to the cruise ship passengers who dock there. The somewhat sleazy atmosphere is heightened by gaudy-looking casinos, legal only on the Dutch side, and American-style fast food.

That's not to say there aren't bargains in Philipsburg. I purchased an embroidered dining

room table cloth and a dozen napkins (made in China by the way) for a price that wouldn't even cover the napkins in the U.S. On the other hand, a native mask and a Parisian hat I bought on the French side were artsy but no bargains.

Although we didn't dine on the Dutch side, it seems unlikely that they could match Grand Case, a one-street village along the water where more than 20 cafes serve up a variety of cuisines. Our favorite was Bistro Carribe, which more than made up for the fact that it wasn't directly on the water by its menu, French with a Caribbean twist, and the friendliness of its husband (chef) and wife (front of the house) owners.

Sight-seeing in St. Martin/St. Maarten is pretty much limited to checking out its 36 beaches, most of them topless and some at which wearing any clothing at all is optional. And that was fine for Bruce and Heather Marwil of

West Bloomfield, who were on their honeymoon. "We're not huge sightseers," Heather reports. The Marwils also loved the food and European atmosphere of the French side of the island.

They had previously been to Aruba, which this year is marking the 500th anniversary of the arrival of the Spanish, bringing the first Europeans to its shores. The Dutch took it over in 1636, and, in 1986, it became a separate entity within the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Instead of the small, separated beaches set in coves we found in St. Martin/St. Maarten, Aruba's beaches are perfect for a lengthy run or walk. Lighthouses mark the northwestern and southeastern ends of the island.

In the waters off the Aruba Marriott on the western stretch of the island, where we stayed, windsurfing was the sport of highest choice, on crafts resem-

bling either colorful butterflies or sleek, translucent moths.

Walking in one direction, you hit the high-rise hotels. But in the other, you discover more isolated portions of beach where, sometimes, only sea shells intrude on the sands.

If isolation is what you want, head for Aruba's eastern shores, where once you pass the Coastal Refinery Area, you aren't sure what is road and what is rut and, except for Baby Lagoon Beach, the waves thunder onto the shore.

We found a dainty smattering of people at Baby Lagoon Beach, but on Boca Grandi, known as a superb spot for windsurfers (of the experienced kind), we were alone.

This end of the island also features a series of caves and the Arikok National Wildlife Park, where cacti compete for terrain with the native divi-divi trees amid massive, weirdly shaped rock formations. As you wind your way back toward the island's center and the Natural Bridge, tiny man-made rock formations invite you to add your version to the melange.

Oranjestad, Aruba's largest

city and a cruise port, shames Philipsburg. It offers its wares in a picturesque setting of pastel-tinted Dutch colonial and whimsical architecture. Shops are interspersed with inviting cafes. And unlike Marigot, restrooms are well-marked.

Aruba also offers casinos. But they are presented in a loftier way than we saw in St. Maarten. The one at our hotel could only be described as elegant. Because we were being entertained, we had just one opportunity to eat outside the hotel. We chose Papiamento, where we enjoyed fresh seafood served sizzling on individual planks in the poolside gardens of an 150-year-old manor.

"I would do St. Martin again - over Aruba," Heather Marwil told me. Whereas I think I'd go back to Aruba over St. Martin. But with 31 islands in the Caribbean, including the Bahamas, it's highly likely we'd both head for some place new.

Judith Doner Berne, a West Bloomfield resident, is former managing editor of the Eccentric Newspapers. You can comment on this travel story by calling (734)953-2047, Ext. 1997.

**Gourmet diners:** Bruce and Heather Maza of West Bloomfield enjoy one of the many fine restaurants in Grand Case on the French side of St. Martin/St. Maarten.



## GREAT ESCAPES

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### ECLIPSE OF THE SUN

On Aug. 11 there will be a total eclipse of the sun. The prime location for viewing the eclipse will be the Carpathian Mountains in Rumania, where the duration of the total eclipse will be its longest at 2 minutes, 20 seconds. Total eclipses are extremely rare, happening only once in several hundred years.

Marela Lazarean, a native of Rumania, is organizing a trip to see the eclipse for Atlas Travel in Detroit's Greektown.

Lazarean said she wants to encourage people to visit her former country and experience its beauty. The trip will include visits to Dracula's castle and the mansion of former Communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. The seven-day excursion costs have

not yet been determined.

Travelers will stay in Sibiu which is a 20 minute drive from the eclipse viewing site. For more information, call Atlas travel at (313)965-7200.

### TRAVEL WITH CHILDREN

Ritz-Carlton Hotels have instituted a new Protect Our Little Ones program. This program was instituted in December in all Ritz-Carlton Hotels in the United States, Canada and Mexico. Upon arrival, guests traveling with children under five will be escorted to their room by a specially trained bellman who will install the safety features and explain other precautionary measures to protect youngsters from injuries.

The P.O.L.O. kit will include a night light, tub spout cover, electric outlet plugs, first-aid kit and emergency safety card with list of local emergency numbers. Other items such as netting and table top edge protectors may also be included.

### GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

Cruisetours, a tour operator specializing in unique destinations, has negotiated a discount for teachers and students on cruises and tours in Ecuador.

Rates will be up to 50 percent less than similar programs and a portion of each fare will be donated to the Darwin Foundation. School identification will be required.

The Galapagos Islands, located 600 miles off the coast of Ecuador, contain many forms of life found nowhere else in the world. It was here that Darwin began formulating his theories for "The Origin of Species." University-level naturalist guides, trained and certified by the Darwin Research Station, escort all tours. They lead passengers ashore in groups of 20 or less twice a day for wildlife excursions.

The travel programs also offer time in Quito, Ecuador's capital. Optional extensions to the Amazon basin and Machu Picchu are available. For information, call Cruisetours at 1-(800)996-2629.

### BACKPACKING

REI will present a two-part course on backpacking. The first part, Backpacking 101, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 10, will cover how to plan a trip and choose your gear. The second part Backpacking 102, 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 17, will cover how to prepare ahead, getting ready to hike and the basics of camping. All clinics are free and open to the public.

The REI sporting goods store

is at 17559 Haggerty, Northville, Six Mile and Haggerty just off I-275. For more information, call (248)347-2100.

### RECORD BREAKERS

The Guinness Book of Records has recognized Cedar Point Amusement Park for three

records in the 1999 edition. It is listed as the theme park with the greatest number of roller coasters, 13; the theme park with the greatest number of rides, 67; and the tallest freefall ride, The Power Tower at 300 feet. Cedar Point is in Sandusky, Ohio.

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All tours include: Transportation from the Detroit/Windsor area and return; all hotels and city and other sightseeing tours; fully escorted; baggage handling; some meals; boat rides; all tips. All prices are per person, double occupancy; a single supplement applies.

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**OBSERVER  
SPORTS  
SCENE**

**Melson best newcomer**

Schoolcraft College's Kevin Melson, a sophomore forward for Wright State University, was named Newcomer of the Year in the Midwestern Collegiate Conference in men's basketball.

Melson, a product of Detroit Communication & Media Arts High School, averaged 28.6 points per game for Schoolcraft.

This season for Wright State, the 6-foot-6, 195-pound Melson is averaging 14.7 points and 6.9 rebounds per game for the 9-17 Raiders.

He was also named to the MCC's second-team.

Melson finished sixth in the MCC in scoring, third in rebounding, first in offensive rebounding, sixth in field goal percent (49), fifth in steals and fourth in blocked shots.

**Madonna awards**

The Madonna University men's soccer team held its annual soccer awards banquet Thursday, and the following awards were presented:

**Rookie of the year** — Sam Piraine (from Dearborn Crestwood); **Offensive Player of the Year** — Scott Emert (Walled Lake Central); **Defensive Player of the Year** — Dave Hart (Novi); **Ray Summers Athletic Excellence Award** — Charlie Bell (Derry, North Ireland); **Sister Nancy Marie Academic Excellence** — Lael Bryant (Canton/Southfield Christian); **Sister Francilene Leadership Excellence Award** — Ryan Mollien (Livonia/Dearborn Crestwood); **Golden Boot Award (most goals)** — Scott Emert; **World Cup Award** — Ryan Thomason (Plymouth Christian Academy); **Most Valuable Player** — Ryan Mollien.

**Cannons tryout**

The Plymouth-Canton Cannons, a 12-year-old boys travel baseball team, will conduct tryouts from 12:30-2:30 p.m. March 6 at the Upper Deck in Northville. All players must be 12 on or before July 31, 1999.

For further information, call Bill Stamm at (734) 451-9623.

**Early Bird Classic**

There's still snow on the ground, but it's not too soon to consider the softball season.

With that in mind, the Canton Softball Center — located at 46555 W. Michigan in Canton — will host its annual Early Bird Classic Softball Tournament April 10-11 for men's B/C and D/E Division teams and all Women's Division teams.

Cost is \$125 per team, with a \$20 USSSA registration fee for those not registered. Entry deadline is April 5. Rain make-up dates are April 17-18; there is a three-game guarantee.

For more information, call Jeff Bradley at (734) 483-5600, ext. 2 or 3.

**Adult softball sign-up**

The Canton Softball Center is now accepting registrations for its adult softball leagues, both day and evening leagues, Sundays through Fridays.

The spring session runs April 12-July 12; the summer session is July 12-Sept. 12; the fall session is Sept. 13-Oct. 21. There are both resident and non-resident leagues. Divisions are Men's B-C-D, Women's C-D, Co-ed, and Masters 30, 40 and 50 and over. All games will be played at Canton Softball Center, located at 46555 Michigan in Canton.

There is a \$100 deposit to enter a team, with the balance due at the respective manager's meeting.

For more information, call Jeff Bradley at (734) 483-5600, ext. 2 or 3.

**Adult softball**

The city of Plymouth Recreation Division is running adult softball leagues this spring and summer in men's slow pitch, women's slow pitch, co-ed slow pitch and men's modified. Registration for returning teams begins March 1; new teams can register starting March 15. Play begins April 26.

For more information, call the Plymouth Recreation Division at (734) 455-6620.

Anyone interested in submitting items to Sports Scene or Sports Roundup may send them to sports editor C.J. Risak, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI, 48150, or may FAX them to (734) 591-7279.

## Nothing easy

### Rocks hold off determined Hawks

BY RICHARD L. SHOOK  
STAFF WRITER

Plymouth Salem's senior players entered Friday night's game having never lost to their Farmington Hills Harrison counterparts since they began their freshman seasons.

And that's how it will go into the record books.

Host Salem staved off determined Harrison, 53-49, in a first-round Western Lakes Activities Association tournament game.

Salem, 15-3, plays its second-round game Tuesday at North Farmington. Harrison, 11-7, hosts Walled Lake Central in a loser's bracket game.

"We left a lot of Hawk skin on the floor," Coach Mike Teachman of Harrison said. "It was a great disappointment for these guys. They wanted it pretty bad."

"They played like they wanted it," Coach Bob Brodie of Salem said of his opponents. "Our guys were aware they hadn't lost to Harrison, too."

It was a clean, well-played defensive game which had some elements of chess on a basketball floor.

Teachman and Brodie substituted liberally, didn't deviate from an in-your-shorts man-to-man defense and went wall-to-wall with it a good deal of the time.

Both teams rested their starters early in the fourth quarter and Harrison whittled a 41-37 deficit down to 43-41 with 4:42 to play.

Rob Jones hit a basket 30 seconds after Salem's starters returned and Jake Gray added two free throws to make it 47-41 with 3:22 left.

But Andrew Burt made a three-point play out of a driving layup, then followed with another layup as the Hawks retained possession due to a technical on Salem. That narrowed the gap to 47-46 with 2:13 left.

Harrison had four shots fail to fall on one possession, then Adam Wilson swished a pull-up jumper in the paint to make it 49-46 with 59 seconds left. Gray followed with a steal, hitting Wilson for a layup and a 51-46 lead with 30 seconds left.

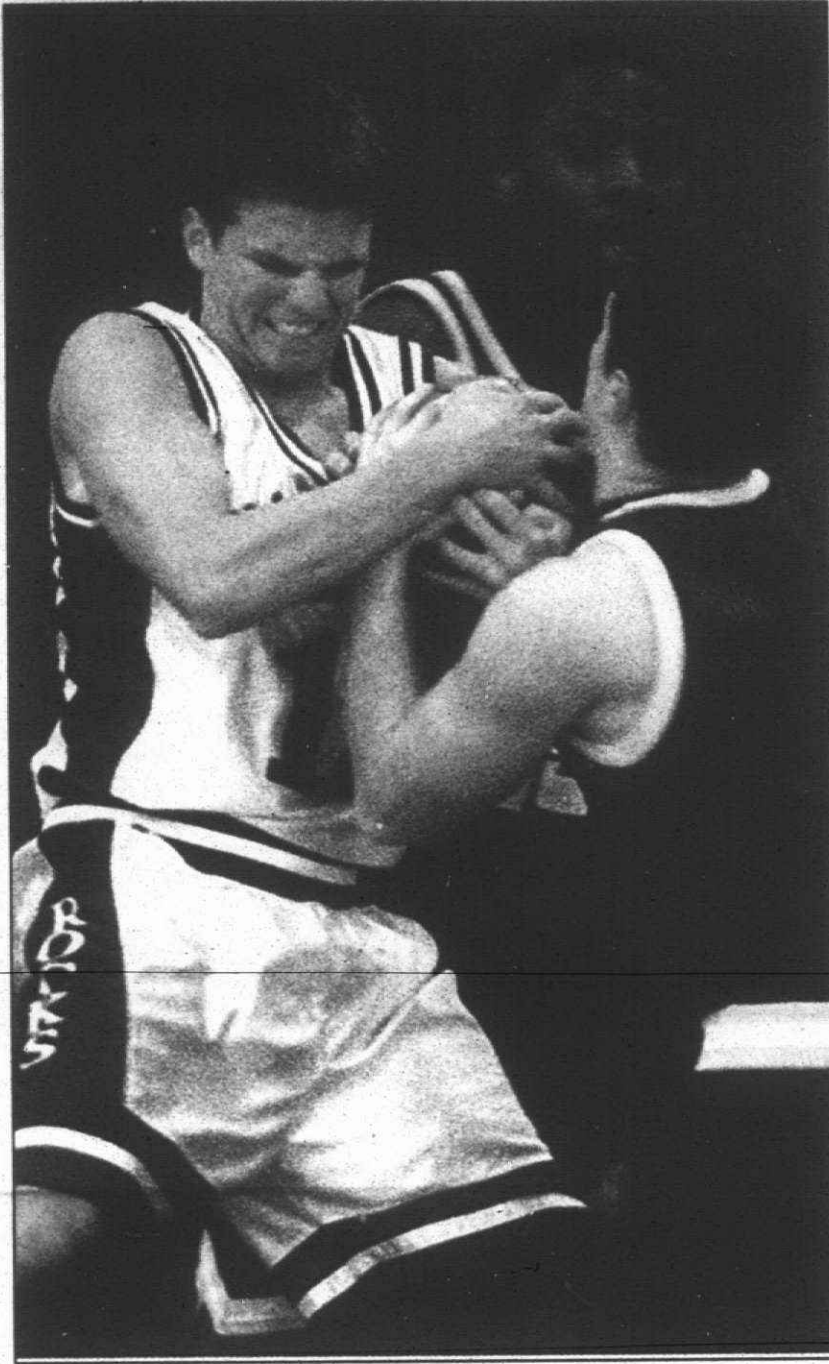
"Those were two key moves," Brodie said. "But that's the mark of a good team to come through when the game's on the line."

Brian Nelson hit a trey for Harrison with 12 seconds to go but the Hawks couldn't get a shot off when they get the ball back, trailing 52-49. A Tony Jancevski free throw with one second to go sealed the decision.

Both teams combined for three timeouts with three seconds to play as Harrison tried to come up with a way to get the ball for a possible game-tying shot.

"They got a lot of gremlin baskets in the first half," Teachman said. "The ball would bounce right to somebody or bounce right in."

The last time the two teams played in the Salem gym, the game was even for a half but Plymouth won by 20.



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURSCHEMANN

**A handful:** Salem's Jake Gray battles Harrison's Dave Pesci (4) and Joe Hundley for possession of the ball in Friday's WLAA playoff game

It was 19-16 after one period, 31-27 at the half and 41-37 after three periods as the Rocks just couldn't stone out the Hawks.

They went to a spread offense, leading 41-33, and gave the ball away three straight times.

"Rob Jones hurt us with his outside shooting in the first half, when we let him shoot," Teachman said. "But they are a quality team."

Jones led Salem with 15 points, Jancevski had 11 and both Gray and Wilson ended with eight apiece.

Lemar Wilson bombed away for 18 Harrison points, 16 of them in the first half, and Burt contributed 16, seven of those in the final quarter.

"They did a nice job defensively on us," Brodie said. "We ran about our whole bag of tricks against them."

Brodie is hoping to use the WLAA tournament as a springboard into the state tournament the second week of March.

"We're still not playing well," he said. But the good defense will give it a chance to get right, as it will for Harrison.

**WLAA PLAYOFFS**

## Comeback lifts Glenn over Chiefs

BY BRAD EMONS  
SPORTS WRITER  
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You don't get time-and-a-half for working overtime in high school basketball, but the rewards are sweet when you come out with a victory.

Westland John Glenn got a tip-in from guard Eric Jones at the end of regulation Friday, and the Rockets outscored visiting Plymouth Canton 9-5 in OT to earn a 60-56 triumph in the first round of the Western Lakes Activities Association playoffs.

Glenn, 11-6 overall, advances to the WLAA semifinals Tuesday at Walled Lake Western, the top seed.

Meanwhile, Canton, 10-8, drops to the consolation bracket to face Northville.

It was very nearly a carbon copy of a Jan. 15 meeting between the two teams with the host Chiefs overcoming a 14-point deficit to gain a 52-49 OT win.

Canton led 13-12 after one quarter, but the Rockets stormed back with a 19-4 run and led 31-19 at intermission.

"The kids are finally realizing they can generate points off their defensive play," Glenn coach Mike Schuette said. "And when we had that offensive run, we were making things happen with our offensive penetration."

Down by as many as 14 late in the second quarter, Canton coach Dan Young had to abandon his man-to-man defense.

The Chiefs opened the second half with a zone and put themselves in position to win. They outscored Glenn 17-5 in the third quarter and pulled even in the fourth, 43-43, on Jason Waidmann's inside hoop with just under four minutes to go.

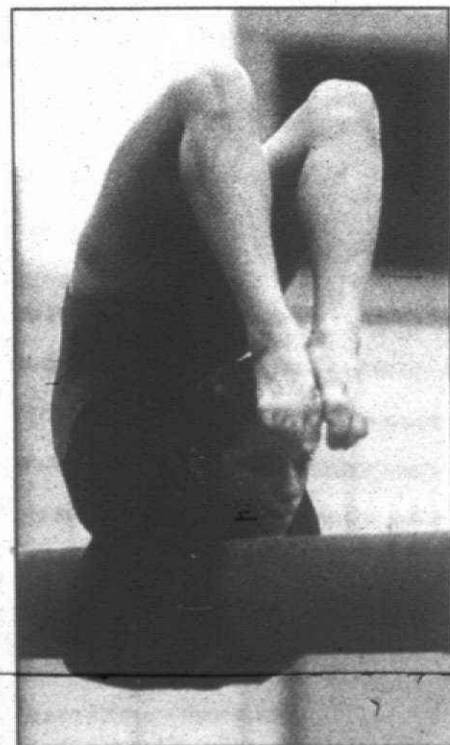
"We don't practice or play a lot of zone, but we worked on it some this week," Canton coach Dan Young said. "We tried to slow the game down to give us a chance to get back in it because Glenn is so hard to guard at times. We were trying to do anything to stay in the game, and actually it gave us some energy."

"We just tried to keep them in front of us and sag in the middle to cut them off from driving. Our whole goal was to keep them out of the paint."

Fouled on a three-point attempt with 1:27 remaining, Canton guard Joe Cortellini nailed three-straight free throws to put his team ahead, 51-47.

Please see HOOP, D5

## Canton 5th, Salem 6th in WLAA



**Rounding into shape:** Canton's Maggie Bett placed 10th in the Division II balance beam and was seventh in the all-around.

Brighton and Hartland dominated the Western Lakes Activities Association gymnastics meet as expected Thursday at the Farmington Training Center.

Brighton edged defending champion Hartland by less than a point, 146.450 to 146.225, to capture the team title. Northville-Novii finished third in the eight-team meet, with Farmington fourth (138.70), Plymouth Canton fifth (132.600), Plymouth Salem sixth (126.750) and Westland John Glenn seventh (126.200).

As expected, the league's top two teams, Brighton and Hartland — both ranked in the top four in the state — dominated in Division I. They combined to take the top four spots in the all-around (the Bulldogs had three of them) and six of the top 10.

Hartland's Kristin Griseto earned the all-around championship with a 37.50 total.

Salem's Melissa Drake was 10th in the Division I all-around with a total of 35.30. In Division II, John Glenn's Jessica Beach was second with 35.45 and Canton's Liz Fitzgerald was third at 35.00. Glenn's Kristen Costanturo had a 33.80 for sixth, Canton's Maggie Bett had a 33.75 for seventh and Salem's Janine Schmedding totaled

**GYMNASTICS**

33.55 for eighth.

In the uneven parallel bars, Salem's Drake took fourth place in Division I with a score of 9.05. Canton's Fitzgerald took first in Division II with a 9.05 score.

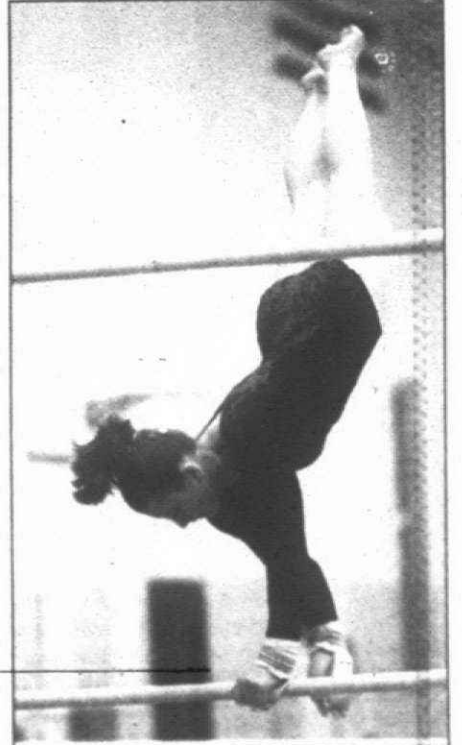
Glenn's Beach was eighth in Division II with an 8.55 and Canton's Kristen Schilk ninth at 8.50.

Drake was ninth for the Rocks in floor exercise with a 9.25 score in Division I. In Division II, the Rockets' Beach tied for third at 9.15 and the Chiefs' Fitzgerald fifth with a 9.10 score. Glenn's Costanturo was tied for eighth with an 8.90.

On balance beam, Drake was 10th in Division I for Salem with an 8.40. Glenn's Beach finished third in Division II at 9.05 while Canton's Fitzgerald was sixth with an 8.70. Bett, also of Canton, was 10th with an 8.45 score.

In vault, the Rockets' Beach scored an 8.70 to earn a fifth-place finish in Division II. Salem's Schmedding tied Canton's Bett for 10th at 8.40.

Canton hosts a Class A state regional Saturday. Salem, defending state champ Northville-Novii and John Glenn will be part of the 17-team field.



STAFF PHOTOS BY BILL BRENNER

**Solid performance:** Salem's Melissa Drake was fourth in Division I bars and 10th in the all-around.










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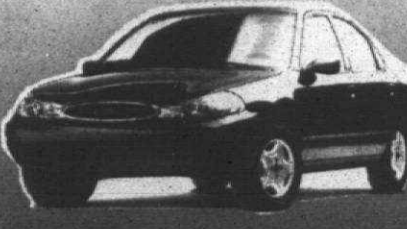
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