

## Saluting the BEST

The Canton Chamber of Commerce wants to give someone the business - as in Business Person of the Year. The chamber is accepting nominations for its Business Person of the Year and Athena Awards. The respective awards are given annually to a top performer in the business community who is involved in making Canton a better place to live and work; and someone who is instrumental in furthering the achievements and goals of women in the workplace.

This year's honorees will be saluted during the chamber's May 3 luncheon at the Summit. Carmen Harlan, WDIV-TV news anchor, will be the keynote speaker.

The Observer Newspapers sponsors the Business Person of the Year Award.

The nomination deadline for both awards is the close of business on Tuesday, April 18. For more information or to receive a nomination form by fax, call the chamber at (734) 453-4040.

## THE WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY

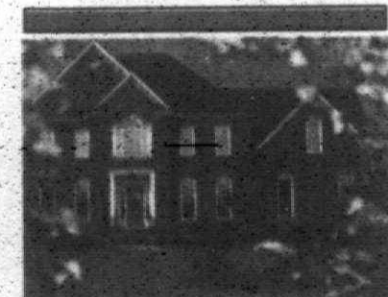
**Ask the lawyer:** George Shea, an attorney with Brashear, Tangora and Spence, will speak to the Homeowners Advisory Council 7 p.m. at the Canton administration building, 1150 S. Canton Center. For information call (734) 397-8975.

## SPECIAL SECTION

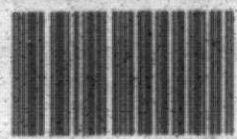
**Tee time:** Check out the map of area golf courses and fascinating articles in our special section on golf./Inside

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The first place to visit when you're looking for a new place to live? The Real Estate ads in today's HomeTown Classifieds!



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## Shuttered restaurant to reopen

BY TEDD SCHNEIDER  
STAFF WRITER  
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Partners Andy Stylianou and Tim Donohoo hope the fourth time is a charm for a long-troubled restaurant on Ford.

The metro Detroit restaurateurs plan to reopen the former Mesquite Creek steak house on Ford east of Canton Center next month as a Parthenon Express restaurant. They're counting on their experience in the business and the right concept to give the location a dose of culinary staying power.

If they succeed, the self-described "upscale Coney island" will have accomplished where previous owners of Mesquite Creek, the Misty Duck Bistro and a family-style Big Boy missed the mark.

"I think once you get the right menu, food and prices - that's a good start," Stylianou said. "When you have the right people know the business - and who care about their customers - that's what makes a success."

Please see RESTAURANT, A2

## Westland man faces robbery charge

BY SCOTT DANIEL  
STAFF WRITER  
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A 32-year-old Westland man has been arraigned in the strong-armed robbery of a Canton woman March 29.

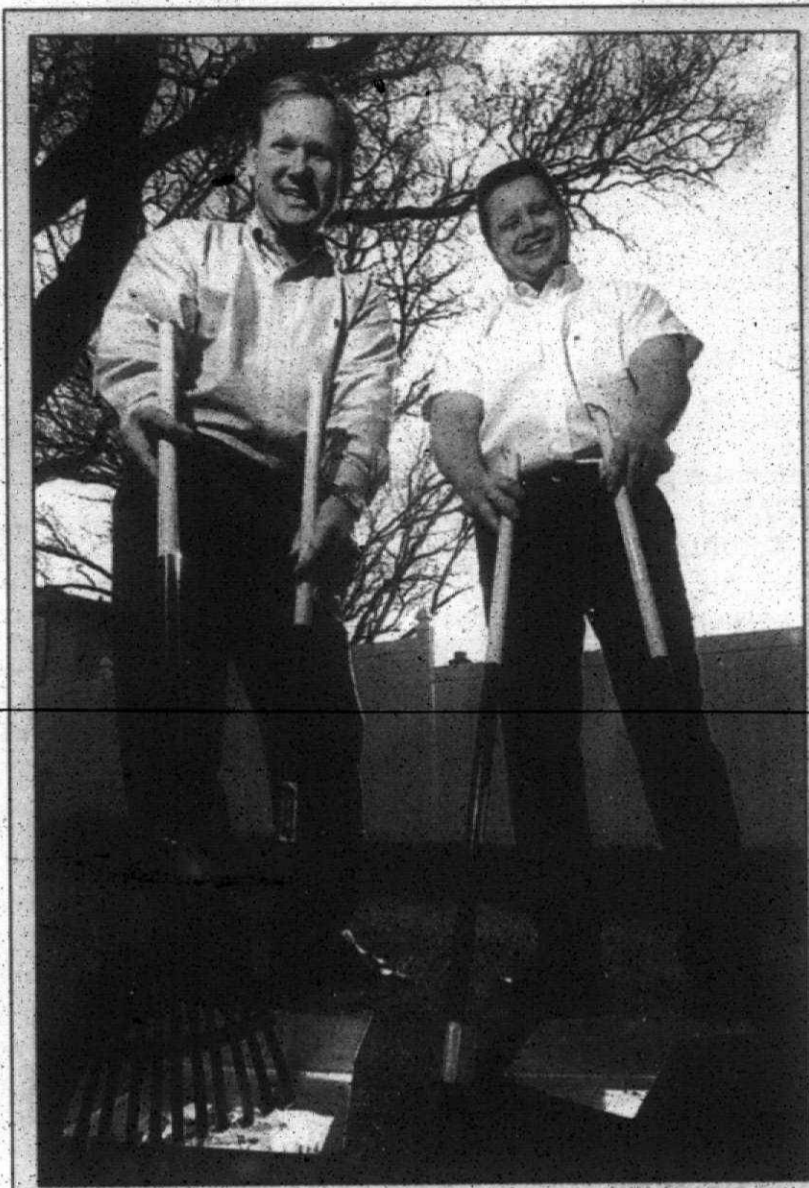
Charles McDonald will face a charge of felony robbery April 14 at a 35th District Court preliminary exam. If convicted, he could face up to 15 years in jail.

Plymouth Magistrate Eric Colthurst set a \$10,000 cash bond for McDonald. The Westland man is currently being held in the Wayne County Jail.

Canton police arrested McDonald Tuesday after a routine traffic stop. Police reports said he ran a red light at the intersection of Haggerty and Warren roads. A township officer stopped McDonald and subsequently arrested him for driving with an expired license.

The officer, reports said, also realized that McDonald and his vehicle matched descriptions given in the robbery.

Please see ROBBERY, A4



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURSCHEMANN

Ready to scoop: Eric Krupic (left) and Ron Fernandez, co-owners of the Straight Scoop pet clean-up service, stand armed with their scoopers in Fernandez' back yard.

## Cleaning up Pet project no wasted opportunity for partners

BY SCOTT DANIEL  
STAFF WRITER  
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Ah, Fido. You love that he's there to greet you after a hard day at work. You love taking him for walks. You love everything about him - except one thing.

Poop patrol. Whether it's cleaning up your back yard or taking a little baggy on the nightly stroll, it's a part of life you could probably do without. That's where Straight Scoop comes in.

For a modest fee, representatives of the new Canton business will handle the job. Convenience, professionalism and customer service will be Straight Scoop's hallmarks, according to co-owner Eric Krupic.

"We make it a point to know each dog or cat's name," he commented. "We bring a digital camera out and take a picture of the customer and their pet. We don't want them to be just another number."

The company, which is currently based out of co-owner Ron Fernandez' home, began a few months ago.

"We have about a dozen clients so far," said Fernandez. "It's going very well."

Krupic and Fernandez have worked together at Detroit Diesel as trainers for years. The duo have long thought about going into business together.

"We have a lot of similar ideas and

Please see SCOOPERS, A3

## Jail term ordered in '97 slaying

James Blanchfield was sentenced Friday to serve 3 to 15 years in prison for the 1997 murder of David Martell in a Canton mobile home park. Two other defendants were acquitted.

BY SCOTT DANIEL  
STAFF WRITER  
sdaniel@oe.homecomm.net

A 19-year-old Canton man will spend three to 15 years in prison in connection with the 1997 murder of David Martell.

James Blanchfield received the sentence Friday from Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Cynthia Gray Hathaway. He pleaded guilty to manslaughter in exchange for first-degree murder, conspiracy to commit murder and felony firearm use charges being dropped.

"No matter what happens today," Victoria Riordan told Hathaway, "it won't bring back my son David. There's no punishment severe enough. I'm only sorry one person is paying for my son's death."

Martell was killed Nov. 19, 1997, at the Westpointe Mobile Home Park off of Michigan Avenue in Canton.

Witness statements to police claimed that Martell, a 21-year-old Belleville man, was killed because he had a friend steal guns and drugs from another teen.

Using handguns ranging in caliber from .22 to .38, Mark Edwards, Matt Leonard and Blanchfield allegedly shot Martell as he left a female friend's home in Westpointe.

As he drove away from her home, he was shot twice and then crashed into a mobile home as he attempted to flee from the gunmen. One of the shots hit Martell in the chest, killing him.

Leonard and Edwards were tried and acquitted on first-degree murder, conspiracy to commit murder and felony firearm use charges in late 1998.

"It's hard when you know they're the last people to see your son alive," said Riordan. "I haven't run into them. I'm glad. I don't know how I would react."

Blanchfield's sentence wasn't a shock to her. She had an idea of what the teen would receive prior to Friday's court proceedings.

"He'll have his whole life ahead of him," Riordan commented. "It doesn't seem fair. It's not what I had hoped for."

Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Christopher Coyle and defense attorney David Cripps argued over sentencing guidelines for Blanchfield briefly.

Michigan's Department of Correc-

Please see JAIL, A2

## Cyber-watchdog: Granholm chases high-tech crime

BY SCOTT DANIEL  
STAFF WRITER  
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Protecting personal privacy and prosecuting cyber criminals are two of the biggest issues facing the Internet.

That's the word from Michigan Attorney General Jennifer Granholm. She spoke before a large gathering of business and community leaders Wednesday at the Canton Chamber of Commerce's Economic Club luncheon.

"The anonymous nature of the Internet emboldens people to do things they'd never do otherwise," said Granholm, who cited gambling as an example. "We've seen people spend thousands of dollars playing on-line."

Granholm, a possible Democratic candidate for governor in 2002, credited the "information superhighway" with the country's boom economy of the past few years. She believes it will continue.

"The high-tech industry is great," said Granholm. "It will take the wave of prosperity and continue to move it forward."

She explained that the Internet is still in its infancy.

"We've been reading about it for

years," Granholm said. "But it has only been around for seven years."

There were just 3,000 Web sites in 1994. That number now reaches into the millions, Granholm said, with thousands of new sites emerging every day.

"This thing is going so fast it's lapping most of us," she added. "It's like the day after Kitty Hawk. I think it's going to blow our socks off."

Granholm believes America will continue to drive Internet development.

"Of the top 20 software companies in the world," she said, "nineteen are in the U.S. I think it's because we teach our people to be creative and think outside of the box."

Keeping creativity and innovation alive is part of her job. Granholm added. She noted that Michigan took part in the recent court case against software giant Microsoft.

"You can't engage in practices that stifle the market," said Granholm. "We want a level playing field."

The Internet has already helped in that regard, she added. It provides anonymity and safety for women and minorities in purchasing items such as

Please see GRANHOLM, A3



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURSCHEMANN

Making a point: Michigan Attorney General Jennifer Granholm gestures during her luncheon address to the Canton Chamber of Commerce Wednesday at the Summit on the Park.





## Secretary's Day program all about attitude

It's all about the attitude! Join Schoolcraft College for an enlightening and enjoyable day that celebrates and supports secretaries, administrative assistants, office personnel and general office staff. Schoolcraft College presents its annual Secretary's Day, Wednesday, April 26, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Livonia, focusing on attitude and self-discovery.

Presenter Joanne Estes, founder and president of Vision Quest, will share techniques for analyzing, adjusting and maintaining your attitude, the differ-

ence your choices can make, and strategies for helping others improve their attitudes at work and at home.

Lunch and a vendor showcase highlighting the newest in office supplies begin the afternoon session. Aj D. Jemison, general manager of Fairlane Town Center, will describe fashion in the workplace and corporate expectations in the light of the more casual trend, and offer shopping tips.

The afternoon wraps up with relaxation as herbalist, aroma therapist and author Colleen K.

Dodt presents an introduction to aromatherapy and offers ways to "spring clean" your body with natural herbs and pure essential oils.

The fee for the daylong session and lunch is \$89. To register or for more information, contact Continuing Education Services at (734) 462-4448.

Schoolcraft College is located at 18600 Haggerty Road in Livonia, between Six and Seven Mile roads, just west of I-275.

## Learning Center takes applications for summer

The Learning Center at Madonna University in Livonia is currently accepting applications for its summer term, which begins in June. Since enrollment is limited, it is important that applications be completed as soon as possible. Early applications will allow sufficient time for an assessment of each student before classes begin.

The tutorial sessions are designed for students from the first through 12th grades who are experiencing difficulty in reading and its related skills. Parents/guardians may choose one session in Block I: 9-10:30 a.m. June 19 to July 14; Block II: 9-10:15 a.m. or 10:30-11:45 a.m. June 19-30; Block III: 8:30-10:15 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. July 5-14; or Block IV: 8:30-10 a.m. or 10:15-11:45 a.m. July 17-28. Individual or group instruction (two students) is available. Certified teachers who are

graduate students in Madonna University's literacy education and learning disabilities master's degree programs will offer the tutoring sessions in Blocks I and II.

Prior to admission, each student will be informally assessed and a tailored remedial plan will be designed. Instruction is designed to enable the student to be a more successful and independent reader and will include strategies for reading fiction and non-fiction text, process writing and study skills. Students will develop a portfolio of their work during the session.

For more information, call (734) 432-5586 or Sister M. Duane, (734) 432-5585. Madonna is in Livonia at I-96 and Levan Road.

## Lucky key



**Prize winner: Tracy Rutkowski of Canton was the winner of a two-year lease of a 2000 Ford Explorer sponsored by the 18 Suburban Ford Dealers Association. The five finalists for the award received a key in between the second and third periods of the March 22 Detroit Red Wings game and each finalist had a chance to start the 2000 Explorer. The finalists were chosen from nearly 5,000 entries. Tracy receives her Explorer March 27 from Craig Atchinson of Atchinson Ford in Belleville.**

## Once polluted Newburgh Lake will be site of August triathlon

BY RICHARD PEARL  
STAFF WRITER  
rpearl@oe.homecom.net

Ever think you'd see anyone swim in the Rouge River? The day may be closer than you think.

To show the progress made in cleaning up one of Michigan's — and the country's — most polluted rivers, Wayne County is planning a triathlon in late August, the highlight being a half-mile competitive swim in Newburgh Lake, an impoundment of the Rouge on the border of Livonia and Plymouth Township.

According to James E. Murray, Wayne County environmental director, the event, scheduled for 5 a.m. to noon Sunday, Aug. 20, will also include a five-kilometer run around the lake and an 18-mile bicycle race through Hines Park, home to the lake.

"I think it's a real signal to the public and the world that the Rouge River is on a comeback," said Murray, a Livonia resident

who got the triathlon rolling. But, he cautioned, "We're not encouraging open recreational swimming in the lake yet." Only trained athletes will compete.

Public swimming will wait until plant life is firmly re-established, he said, adding that County Executive Ed McNamara "is hoping, long-term, to have a swimming beach" either at the lake or farther upstream.

For now, Murray said, "the water qualities have improved enough that in this portion of the river — Newburgh Pointe — a swimming competition "is

acceptable."

The county health department "signed off about two months ago on the water quality," he said. "And what a great accomplishment that is," he added, noting that, for the last 30 years, officials have "warned everybody to stay out of the river" due to pollution from more than 50 years of industrial waste-dumping and natural runoff of fertilizers and road chemicals.

Newburgh Lake, a collection basin in the Rouge system, was drained and dredged in 1998 at a cost of \$12 million to remove PCBs and other contaminants.

That was just part of the \$600 million spent since 1992 on the federally mandated cleanup of the Rouge Basin, which stretches from the Detroit River to Oakland County.

Plants and fish have since been successfully re-introduced into the lake and boating and fishing are allowed, although the fish still cannot be eaten.

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In the arena of joint and muscle conditions, the body seems to have substantial potential to make repairs and restore you to a state of reasonable function and minimal pain. Thus, doctors need to be careful to not prescribe medications that may help but definitely can cause side effects and considerable expense.

On the other hand, the physician must encourage you to undertake efforts to preserve the strength and stamina of your body. You need to be prepared to take advantage of the healing your body provides; otherwise, your state of poor conditioning will counter the gain of healing. Daily exercises, regular rest, and a good outlook are as much a therapy as any medication and you should consider such a regimen as seriously as you would any prescription. This therapy does not cure but facilitates the healing process that your body undertakes.

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## Sullivan plans to seek re-election

Pledging to make Wayne County more "user-friendly," County Commissioner John H. Sullivan, D-Wayne, announced Thursday his intention to seek re-election to a second two-year term.

"Wayne County government needs to be more user-friendly for residents," said Sullivan, whose 11th District includes the cities of Wayne, Belleville and Romulus and the townships of Canton, Huron, Sumpter and Van Buren.

Issuing a call for satellite offices, Sullivan said, "Western Wayne residents must drive 20 to 40 miles to downtown Detroit, then battle to find a parking space every time they need to pay property tax bills or conduct other county business."

"Satellite offices are needed in the western part of the county," he said.

Sullivan, who serves on more commission committees — seven — than any other commissioner, said he also plans to work on



John Sullivan

"Our region needs to develop a comprehensive public transportation plan for western Wayne County and downtown Detroit," he said.

Sullivan said his efforts in his first term on the commission have led to "competitive bidding of all contracts" at Metro Airport; "the widening, reconstruction, paving and building of many roads" in the district and "improving the relationship" between the county government and the district's communities.

He said he also ensured that approximately one-third of the entire Wayne County road budget was spent in his district in 1999 and plans "to top that figure this year (2000)."

"Citizens in my district know that they can count on me and that I am always willing to listen to them and to work hard on their behalf," he said. "I appreciate having the opportunity to serve the people of the 11th District."

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| Monday    | 4/10 | 11:30 a.m. |
| Tuesday   | 4/11 | 10:00 a.m. |
| Wednesday | 4/12 | 11:00 a.m. |
| Thursday  | 4/13 | 11:00 a.m. |
| Friday    | 4/14 | 11:00 a.m. |

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## Cruisers registration

The Plymouth-Canton Cruisers Swim Club will have registration from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, April 18, in the main hall outside of the Plymouth Salem pool.

Registration will be for kids six and over, from beginners to advanced. They will also be registering Masters swimmers (18 and over).

The Cruisers' season begins May 1. The team competes in U.S. Swimming Federation and Southern Michigan Swim League meets.

For more information, contact Janice Derian at (734) 455-3103, or under-18 coach Leslie Greeneisen at (734) 207-7780, or Masters coach Sarah Eubanks at (734) 207-0883.

## Sonnanstine helps

Junior Amy Sonnanstine (Plymouth/Canton HS) took first in the pole vault to help Wittenberg University take first in the Mountain Laurel Invitational Track Meet at University of the South in Tennessee.

Sonnanstine was also fourth in the 400 hurdles and ran a leg on her school's third-place 1600 relay team.

## Chiefs' boosters meet

The Canton Chiefs Football Booster Club will host their monthly meeting in Room 165 of Canton HS at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 12. Nomination and election for the office of president will be held.

All parents of Chief football players are encouraged to attend the meeting. If you have any questions, call Paul Szwejkowski at 453-0985.

## Sports auction

The Institute for Preventive Sports Medicine will hold a celebrity sports auction Friday, April 14 at the Marriott Eagle Crest Conference Resort in Ypsilanti (1275 S. Huron St.). The three-hour event begins at 7:00 p.m.

Radio personality Dick Purtan and former NBA and University of Michigan standout Tim McCormick will be the host auctioneers. They will be auctioning off various sports memorabilia signed by the likes of Arnold Palmer, Gordie Howe, Walter Payton, Grant Hill, Brett Favre, Mia Hamm, Wayne Gretzky and John Elway, as well as a host of Red Wings and Tigers.

The wide variety of signed items include photographs, jerseys, hockey sticks and pucks, balls, helmets and NASCAR car pieces.

In addition a Mickey Mantle autographed jersey, as well as a Las Vegas trip and jewelry will be raffled off.

Admission to the event is \$10. Proceeds benefit a non-profit organization dedicated to the prevention of sports-related injuries and health care containment.

For more information call (734) 424-1706.

## Women's golf league

A women's Friday morning golf league will get underway May 8 at Fellows Creek Golf Course in Canton. All ability levels are welcome; individual handicaps will be established.

Tee times begin at 9 a.m. The 16-week season costs \$15 to register and weekly greens fees. There are no residency requirements.

There will be a league meeting at 9 a.m. April 14 at Fellows Creek. Registration begins Monday. For more information, call (734) 397-5110.

## Futures Classic back

Mystic Creek Golf Club in Milford will again host the MEDHEALTH Futures Golf Classic for the second year, on May 24-27.

The SBC Futures Tour is the developmental tour for the LPGA and features 20 tournaments in 15 states. The Pro-Am will take place on May 24, while the tourney is May 25-27.

## Hockey coach wanted

Redford Unified is seeking a varsity hockey coach.

Those interested should call Redford Union athletic director Jim Gibbons at (313) 592-3408.

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.

# Dispute roils Bolger-Mangan

BY RICHARD L. SHOOK  
STAFF WRITER

A sour finish marred a sweet meet. The memorial Bolger-Mangan annual meet kicking off the outdoor track season Thursday for Plymouth Canton and Salem went right down to the last event — and beyond.

Plymouth Salem was ruled the victor Friday, 69-68, when Canton's mile relay team was confirmed as being disqualified for running with the wrong color Spandex uniform.

"Two different runners wore different Spandex," Chiefs' coach Bob Richardson said. "One wore black and one wore white."

"I did not check before the race like I should have. We know (the rule), but I didn't double-check. It was right near the end of the meet."

"We felt (we) could win the race, which would then win the meet. I erred because I didn't double-check that."

"The rule says it's got to be the same color undergarments."

"That allowed us to win the meet," Coach Geoff Baker of Salem said. "We saw (the uniform violation) and made the official aware of it."

"That's not the way you like to win a meet."

"I'm not happy about the way it came down, but the rule is the rule."

"There's one thing, if this was the regionals and they get disqualified, they don't go on to states. But that's coming from my point of view and I'm a little biased."

Thus Salem's 1600 relay foursome of Rob Showalter, Robbie Kamman, Tony Stott and Steve Shull were rule the winner with a time of 3:50 that was 10 seconds slower than Canton's time.

And instead of losing by nine, Salem won by one.

As if that weren't enough controversy to mar the meet meant to memorialize two tragically deceased Plymouth athletes, basketball player Mark Bolger



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURSCHEMANN

**Over and out:** Plymouth Canton hurdler/vaulter Chris Kalis didn't run away from the field in Thursday's Bolger-Mangan meet but he did win the 110-meter hurdles, beating Salem's Ryan Silva by .15-second. The Rocks won, 69-68, on a rules violation by the Chiefs in the meet's final event.

and runner Jeff Mangan, the Plymouth Salem shot putters didn't have identical uniforms on, either.

The difference, Baker said, was because the shot put results were complete before the improper uniform issue was raised.

"Bob and I have not talked yet," Baker said. "He was questioning our shot putters. What they were wearing. That was okay, as of what I heard from

the MHSAA.

"John Davidson, the starter, called the MHSAA Friday morning, to get an interpretation on the rule about Spandex."

Nate Hampton, their rules expert, told John it's a pretty cut and dried rule.

"I went further. Our shot putters wear T-shirts that say 'PS Track and Field.' They were wearing shorts, not

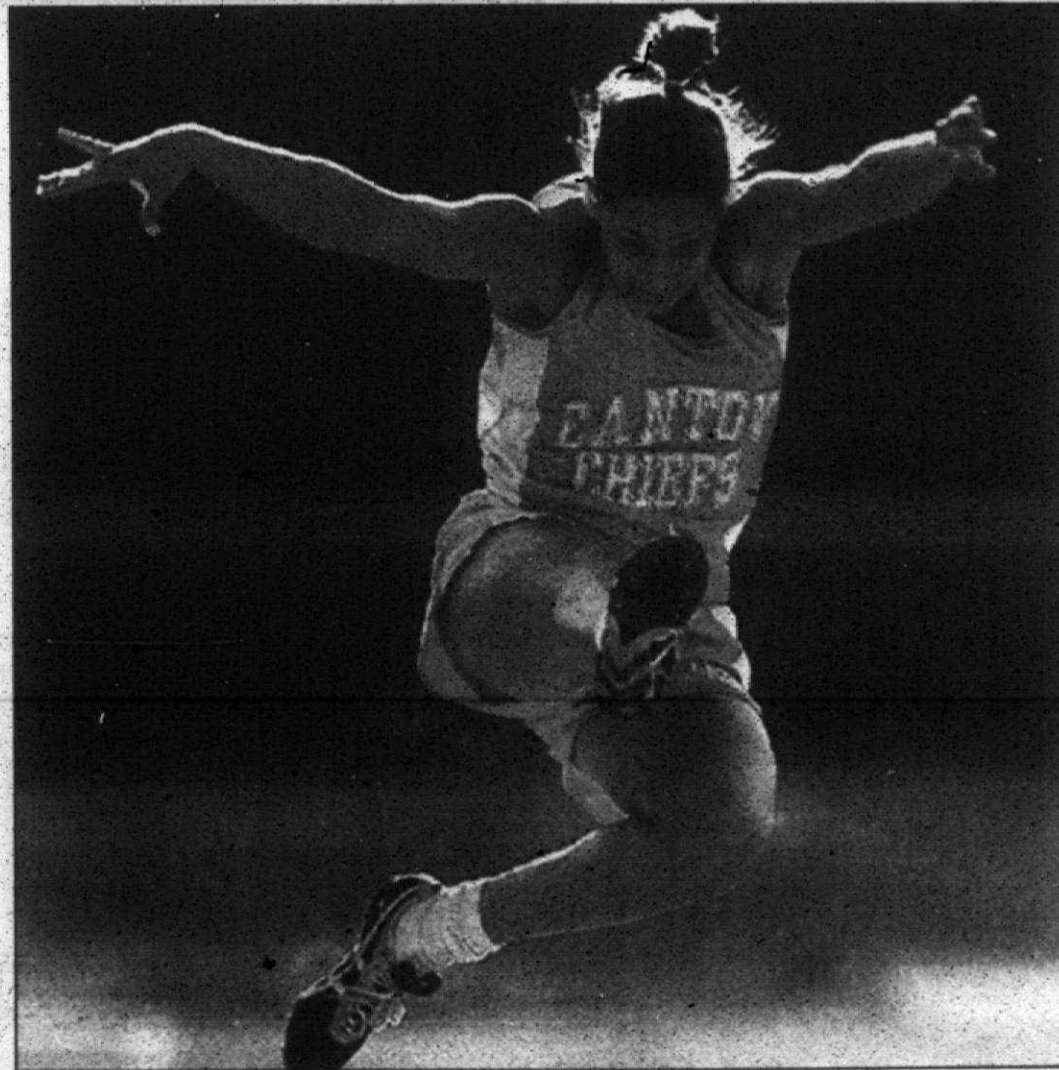
the regular ones.

"He explained they must be in (the school) colors. The one who scored (for Salem) wore blue. One of others, a non-scorer, wore light grey, close to white."

"He said it did not sound like there was a violation there."

Richardson offered a different view. "They were not in their team uniform," the Chiefs' coach said. "He

Please See BOYS TRACK, B5



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURSCHEMANN

**In for a landing:** Plymouth Canton had few bright spots in its lop-sided Bolger-Mangan meet loss to Salem (101-36) but Amy Driscoll was one, shown here on her winning long jump effort. She bettered 16-feet in her first venture outdoors.

# Lady Rocks batter Chiefs in track meet

The outcome was a little one-sided but both coaches saw good things come out of Thursday's Bolger-Mangan meet, the opening of the girls outdoor track season.

Plymouth Salem's veterans beat rival Canton's youngsters, 101-36.

"We expected that with the veteran team we had returning, it would be a pretty competitive meet for us," Coach Mark Gregor of victorious Salem said.

"The conditions were fairly good at the beginning. It was windy and cold at times, though," he added. "I thought our team handled the first outdoor meet of the season fairly well."

"There were a few slipups, but that was to be expected."

"The thing I liked most, all 70 girls on our team who competed were focused and competitive."

On the Canton side, Coach John Venning was enthusiastic about what he saw from his largely inexperienced squad.

"The girls ran great races," he said. "They were very competitive throughout the lineup."

"This is a very good starting point for a young team. They need to keep working hard and stay together and focused as a team."

"The coaching staff is very proud of their overall effort and sportsmanship."

Tiffany Grubaugh fought through the wind to set a new school record for the Rocks in the discus. She also won the shot put.

Grubaugh's new school discus record, which she'll undoubtedly threaten or extend throughout the season, is 143-feet, 6-inches.

"The throwers had a wind in their face for each of the two events," Gregor said. "My hat's off to them."

"It was difficult for them. The fact Tiffany threw the discus that far was pretty

Please See GIRLS TRACK, B5

# Ballpark Franks? No, C. J. and Paul

Ballpark junkie.

Is it someone who tries to go to every park or someone who just enjoys them?

In any case, we figure we've been to roughly 18 between us.

We've been to the old (Tiger Stadium, Fenway Park, Wrigley Field, old Comiskey Park), the new (SkyDome, Turner Field), the good (County Stadium), the bad (Metrodome) and the ugly (Riverfront Stadium, Veterans

Stadium, Three Rivers Stadium).

Last week, we went to one more — Comerica Park. You'll love it, you'll hate it, but you'll go to it. You may even go to watch the Detroit Tigers.

We went with one thing in mind — helping you know what to look for and what to

look out for. OK, there was free food, but we only ate in the name of helping you the consumer.



C.J. RISAK



PAUL BEAUDRY

We've reviewed many different parts of the park — all with Comerica's predecessor in mind. In the end, you'll have to make up your own mind if you go.

Think of this as Siskel and Ebert go to the ball park. We'll grade the items as Bats Up, Bats Down, or a Checked Swing. Ready? Let's go to the ball park.

## ACCESS

CJ: Just 35 minutes. That's all it took to drive from our office (Levan and Schoolcraft in Livonia) to the new ballpark — and on opening day! OK, so the Tigers opened in Oakland. Still, the drive wasn't all that different. Took 1-

96 to I-94 east to the Chrysler south and got off at the first exit — Mack. Took that to Woodward, turned left and voila! We were there. Signs leading you to the park all the way. Access is possible, but easy? Ah — doubtful. Have to wait and see. CHECKED SWING.

PAUL: There's an old saying about how you can't get there from here. Its latest installment is Comerica Park. While there are signs everywhere on how to find the park, you might want to bring a book, a good tape or maybe a hand-held video game while waiting for

Please See BALLPARK, B5

Ballpark from page B1

traffic to move. One of the advantages of Tiger Stadium was the ballpark came first, the freeways were built around it and Michigan Avenue had three lanes of traffic in both directions.



STAFF PHOTO BY BRIAN MITCHELL

What's the score? The giant scoreboard in left field, along with the downtown Detroit skyline, will be the dominate view in the Tigers' new Comerica Park.

STADIUM EXTERIOR
CJ: OK, it doesn't have that lush, white aluminum siding that made Tiger Stadium so special. But it does have a lot of really neat Tiger stuff, like sculptures of Tigers on the outside walls.

PAUL: Tiger Stadium is an old ballpark that looks like a warehouse in the middle of a historic district. Comerica Park is a new ballpark that looks like an old ballpark in the shadow of the old Hudson's warehouse.

CONCOURSES
PAUL: One of the nice things about Tiger Stadium was the interior concourses. True, they were small and cramped.

about Tiger Stadium was the interior concourses. True, they were small and cramped. But that was part of the charm. You walked into the stadium, you were hit with the smells of cooking onions and hot dogs.

SEATING
CJ: There are, according to the Tigers' PR department, 30,000 chair seats, 3,000 club seats, 2,000 suite seats and 5,000 bleacher seats.

PAUL: We made the trek to section 210, row 22, seat 1 - the furthest seat in the last row down the upper deck in right. The last time I sat in such a seat was in new Comerica Park and the concessionaire sold binoculars and oxygen. Don't need 'em here.

PAUL: The climb isn't as high as it looks and the sight line was much better than the worst seat in Tiger Stadium (those not behind poles.) Wider seats (perfect for wider posteriors) and better sight lines make the grade.

here, but the best are the Tiger Den seats with actual padded, wooden, movable chairs at \$75 a pop and only available to season ticket holders.

FOOD
PAUL: A \$7.25 beer and a Ball Park Frank for \$2.75? It makes Metro Airport food prices seem like Rally's.

CJ: I'm a beer and a dog kinda guy, and I always treasured those served at the Corner. But times change and, know what? CoPa's weren't bad.

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PAUL: A carousel? A ferris wheel? In a ballpark? Yup, and properly detected as it should have been.

Richardson disputed that he didn't point out the difference in the Salem shot putters to officials. "That is false," he said. "I talked to the official during the time the event was going on, about 4:15 to 4:30. We discussed that they were not in uniform."

"I didn't press it, because I didn't think it was a big deal. His man threw further than our man, and I accepted that."

"But when all this other information was a big deal at the end of the meet ... and I pointed out they were not in uniform and should be denied ... that was a major point of the call to the (MHSAA)."

"We new the other. It was not amazing."
high jump: 1. Aisha Chappell (PS), 5-1 (fewer misses), 2. Autumn Hicks (PS), 5-1, 3. Amy Driscoll (PC) 5-0.

Boys track from page B1

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Chiefs open with double-header split; Eagles perfect at start

Plymouth Canton's season opener was a mixed success. Canton dropped a 3-2 game at Walled Lake Central on Wednesday when the Vikings pushed across an earned run in the eighth inning.

But the Chiefs came back to take the darkness-shortened nightcap, 5-4, in a five-inning game. Greg Neino pitched a one-hitter. Shumaker also went 1-for-3 and drove in two runs.

Overall, we didn't play bad. We were disappointed in our defense, however. Jim Reddy went 2-for-2, Oliver Wolcott scored twice, Jon Johnson had two RBI with a double.

The Vikings scored three times in the bottom of the fifth. In the opener, Jon Johnson took the loss despite an 11-strikeout performance. He gave up five hits and walked just one.

Thursday at Griffin Park. With the score tied 1-1, sophomore infielder Carnevale knocked in the winning run in the bottom of the eighth inning for PCA.

Lutheran Westland beat us up pretty bad last year, so this win is quite fulfilling, said PCA Coach Sam Gaines. Senior Derric Isensee (4-for-4) led the Eagles at the plate, getting half of the team's eight hits.

The game also marked the first career appearance for PCA freshman starting pitcher Clay Welton (1-0). In an impressive debut, he pitched a complete game, striking out 14 batters and only giving up only four hits, and no earned runs.

As the year goes by everybody is going to be hearing a lot more about this guy," Gaines said of Welton. The Eagles did commit four errors, including an overthrow ball that allowed the Warriors to score their run.

Brad Nollar had two hits and a stolen base for the Warriors (0-2), and Luke Kasten added an RBI single.

Senior Derric Isensee (4-for-4) led the Eagles at the plate, getting half of the team's eight hits. He scored the winning run on Carnevale's hit, and had one RBI.

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Penske Auto Centers advertisement featuring 4th tire free, Spectra tires, and various car services.

TRU TEMP Heating & Cooling advertisement with contact information and services.

WHLERS advertisement for OHL playoffs and games at Compuware Sports Arena.

Guide to tickets and parking advertisement for the game.

Hockeytown Cafe advertisement for Opening Day on Tuesday, April 11, 2000.

WJR 760 AM High School Athlete of the Week advertisement featuring Katie Leshinsky.







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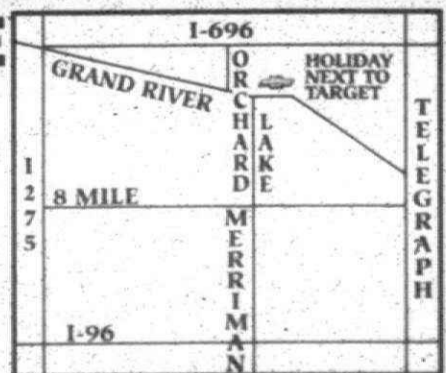
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## ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS



LINDA ANN CHOMIN

### Angelic choir takes wing after revival

There were only three members of the Livonia Youth Choir singing, but their voices sounded like a choir of angels.

The mini-performance of "Amani Utupe," an African song, followed an interview with choir members Rachel Bhagwat, and Sarah and Emma Stitt and their moms. They'll sing the entire program Sunday, April 16, at Newburg United Methodist Church, Churchill High School Choralation, a show choir under the direction of Pat Hutchison, will perform.

"It's an innocence and joy that you hear in their voices," said Haika Gay, Rachel's mother. "It's a bunch of kids who want to be there. Rachel loves to sing and she's found a place where she can sing in a secular situation. It gives her this broad experience. It's a cooperative effort to sing together as a unit."

If it hadn't been for Hutchison, though, Rachel would still be looking for a children's choir with which she could hone her singing skills. Until January when Hutchison resurrected the Livonia Youth Choir, local children could sing as a group only if they joined a church choir.

"It was a friendly atmosphere at the audition," said Bhagwat, a 9-year-old student at Webster Elementary. "I like singing together with different harmonies. And I like that we don't just stick to American music but have songs from different places."

Hutchison revived the choir because of children like Rachel, Sarah and Emma. Her own son sang in the Livonia Youth Choir 15 years ago. Shortly after, the group was disbanded.

"He made some lifelong friends," said Hutchison, chairman of the music department at Churchill High School in Livonia. "Even though today

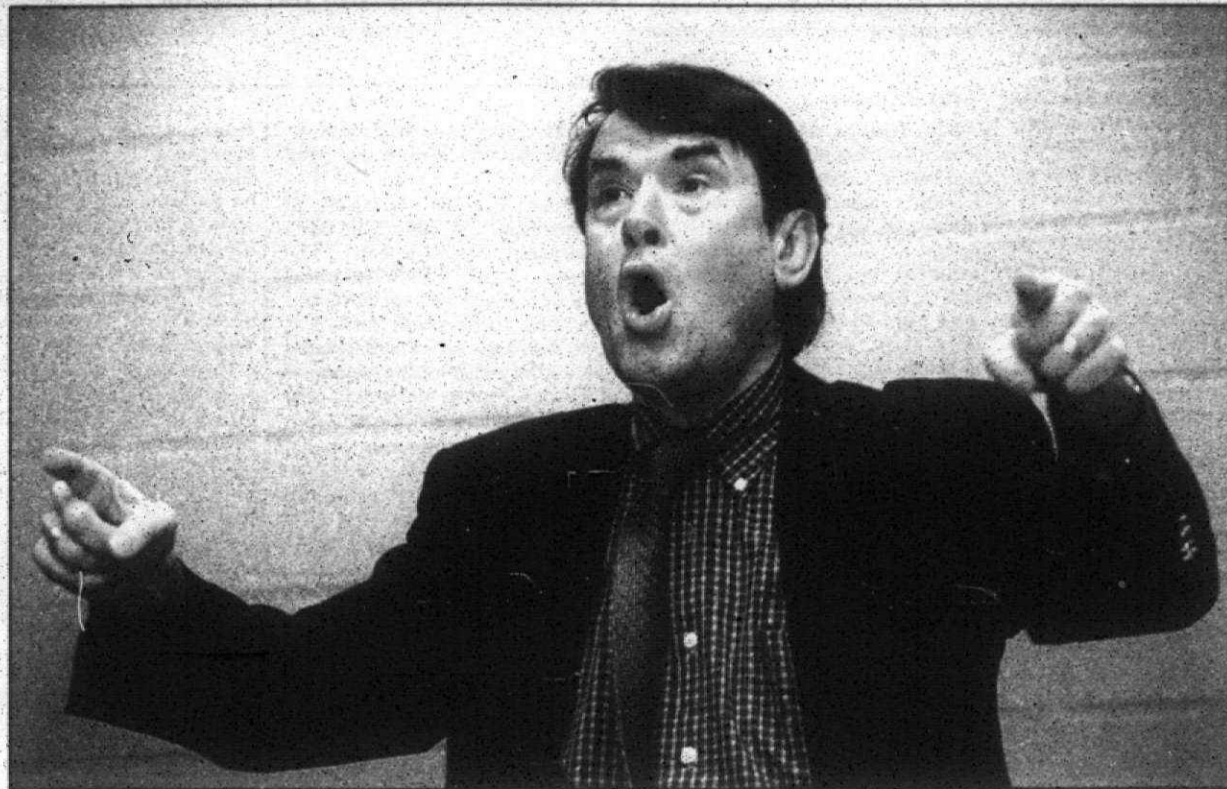
he's a builder and no longer involved with music, it was a good experience socially and musically. I believe the arts are so important. The kids are sitting in front of computers all day, and the choir gives them the opportunity to get out and participate. It fosters teamwork like athletics does. I encourage people to support it."

Hutchison had another reason for reviving the choir in addition to encouraging children to develop social and musical skills. When instrumental instruction was restored in Livonia elementary schools last September, fifth- and sixth-grade vocal music classes were eliminated.

"When the Livonia Public Schools changed the program by offering a little less vocal and more instrumental for elementary students, we wanted to supplement by giving them another opportunity to sing," said Hutchison. "It's a good feeder program for high schools."

Auditions for the choir were held in January. A \$3,000 grant from the Livonia Arts Commission got the project off the ground by providing funding for sheet music, rehearsal space, and director Leigh Emmett, a graduate of Churchill High School and former Livonia Youth Choir accompanist. Students rehearse 4:30-6 p.m. Sundays. The cost for 12 weeks

Please see EXPRESSIONS, C2



STAFF PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY

Solemn sounds: Dave Wagner leads the Madonna University Chorale in a rehearsal of Durufle's "Requiem."



Holy Week tradition: Chorale members Ellen O'iver (left), Larry Banas, Howell and Ted Grabarczyk, Farmington Hills prepare for their annual performance with the Livonia Symphony Orchestra.

## MUSICIANS REFLECT ON LIFE & DEATH

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN

Volodymyr Schesiuk remembers Palm Sunday as a solemn time when the priest would bless pussy willow branches before passing them out to parishioners at his church in Ukraine. The ceremony marked the beginning of Holy Week services and the retelling of events leading up to the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ.

So it's fitting that this Palm Sunday, the Livonia Symphony Orchestra conductor will keep the day sacred by playing Maurice Durufle's "Requiem" at St. Edith Church in Livonia. A French composer who lived from 1902 to 1986, Durufle wrote the music to celebrate the repose of souls of the dead. Schesiuk and the orchestra join together with the Madonna University Chorale and conductor/organist David Wagner to present the work.

"It's very nice music written shortly after the Second World War in 1947," said Schesiuk, a Garden City resident who immigrated to the U.S. in 1991. "It's not an easy piece of music. As compared to Mozart, it's a Gregorian chant, but everything is a little softer but very emotional."

**Program**  
In addition to the "Requiem," the program reflects on life and death with Handel's "Concerto for Organ & Orchestra," Grieg's "Death of Asaf"

- **What:** A Palm Sunday concert by the Livonia Symphony Orchestra, Madonna University Chorale and organist Dave Wagner
- **When:** 3 p.m. Sunday, April 16
- **Where:** St. Edith Church, 15089 Newburgh, south of Five Mile, Livonia
- **Tickets:** \$15, \$10 students/children. Call (248) 645-6666 or (734) 464-2741

from "Peer Gynt Suite," Chadwick's "Serenade for Strings," Dvorak's "Largo" from the "New World Symphony," and Sibelius' "Valse Triste."

"We selected these for what will be good for acoustics in church," Schesiuk said. "The concerto is really church music. The 'Requiem' is played before each Easter. It's a question of life and death. Music is like life. It must be used in the right place and time."

Schesiuk is looking forward to performing with Wagner and the chorale again. In January, they presented Beethoven's "Ninth Symphony" at Livonia's Churchill High School Auditorium.

In 1998 and 1999 the orchestra and chorale joined the St. Genevieve Interdenominational Choir to perform Requiems by Rutter and Faure on Good Friday. St. Genevieve choir director Laverne Lieberknecht ini-

tially came up with the idea for a joint concert with the Livonia Symphony Orchestra during Holy Week. Due to illness, Lieberknecht and her choir will be unable to perform this year.

The chorale and Wagner, now in his second season as conductor, began working on the "Requiem" in January.

"It's one of the great masterpieces of 20th century choral music," said Wagner. "Throughout the ages, composers have set these texts for the Mass of the Dead or Mass of Resurrection. It has ancient chant melodies with impressionistic sort of harmony. I don't want to people to be scared off because it's 20th century music. This is very accessible, a beautiful, lush work."

An accomplished organist, Wagner leads off the program as soloist for the Handel concerto. Wagner won Best Classical Recording of a solo artist at the 1998 Motor City Music Awards for his CD "Bright and Clear." Previous to becoming a full-time music professor at Madonna University two years ago, he was program director of classical music station WQRS for 18 years before it switched formats.

"The concerto Handel wrote was to be performed as intermission music for one of his oratorios," Wagner said. "During Lenten season, opera and theater performances

Please see LIFE, C2

### University Musical Society resurrects Bach masterwork

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

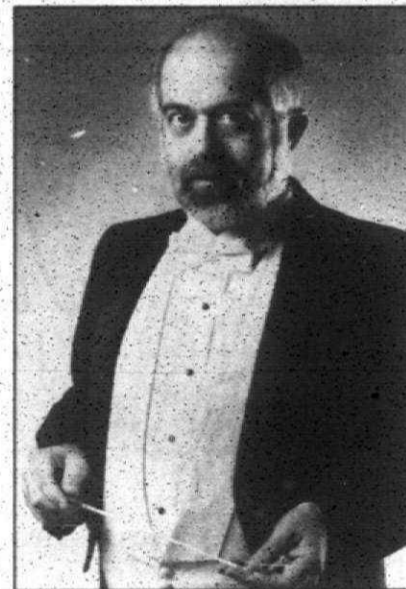
Conductor Thomas Sheets believes that if not for Felix Mendelssohn, the University Musical Society Choral Union might not be performing Bach's "St. Matthew Passion" on Palm Sunday.

By the time Mendelssohn rediscovered the masterwork a little more than 100 years after it was written, the Passion and its composer had fallen out of favor and nearly been forgotten. Mendelssohn revived the large-scale oratorio in 1829. In so doing, the young conductor initiated the modern era of Bach scholarship and helped bring his music into the mainstream of performance repertoire.

**Soloists**  
Sheets and the Choral Union together with the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra and Ann Arbor Youth Chorale will perform Bach's masterwork with soloists on Sunday, April 16. Thanks to the generosity of Carl and Isabelle Brauer, the University Musical Society was able to engage soloists with international reputations to sing the elaborate and lengthy production requiring an adult attention span. Joining them will be Russell Brauer, a baritone regularly appearing with the Metropolitan Opera, singing the role of Jesus; soprano Maya Boog, alto Susan Platts, tenor Steven Tharp, and bass-baritone Clayton Brainerd with Edward Parmentier on harpsichord/organ. Tenor Hans Peter Blochwitz is the Evangelist, a narrative character complemented by arias, choruses and chorales.

"Mendelssohn at the tender age of 19 came across the score of this work and was fascinated," said Sheets. "He single-handedly wrote out the parts and

Please see BACH C2



Thomas Sheets

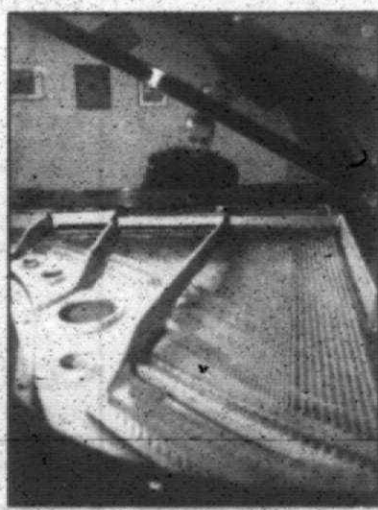
#### "St. Matthew Passion"

- **What:** University Musical Society Choral Union, Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra and Ann Arbor Youth Chorale perform Bach's masterwork
- **When:** 4 p.m. Sunday, April 16
- **Where:** Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University, Ann Arbor
- **Tickets:** \$10-\$22, call (734) 764-2538 or (800) 221-1229

## CONCERT

### Pianist spices concert with Latin American fare

**Pianist:** Dimas Caraballo rehearses for his "Music Through the Ages" concert.



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURCHMANN

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

While Latin American music is all the rage right now little is known about classical works written by composers from Argentina and Spain. Dimas Caraballo thinks that's a shame. The Cuban-born pianist plans to change that by giving two concerts at the Plymouth Community Arts Council on Saturday, April 15.

The "Music Through the Ages" program features works ranging from baroque to contemporary with a little Latin thrown in for spice.

"Classical is the foundation of all music," said Caraballo. "It's master music that's 200 years old. Some people think you put it on and fall asleep. It has some life, vitality. It's not boring."

"In Spanish culture European music is just part of the culture, part of education," continued Caraballo.

"The program has my Spanish roots. I wanted to give people a flavor of Latin American music and how it was influenced by classical music but retains folk themes."

Caraballo began playing piano shortly after coming to the U.S. in 1967. His mother instilled a love of music in him early. She was his first piano teacher when he was 5. Caraballo's talent and hard work won him full scholarships to the University of Michigan School of Music in 1986. Now the award-winning pianist is sharing them in a high-energy program of music by Bach, Beethoven, Liszt, Enrique Granados, Louis Gottschalk, Ernesto Lecuona, and Alberto Ginastera. Caraballo is playing the same recital at the University of Miami in August.

"The Granados has a flavor of Spanish dancers with castanets and Gottschalk was influenced by Latin

Please see CONCERT, C2

- **What:** Concerts by pianist Dimas Caraballo
- **When:** 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, April 15
- **Where:** Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon Road.
- **Tickets:** \$5, call (734) 416-4278



GUIDE TO GREAT MOVIES

Movie listings for various theaters including National Amusements, Showcase Cinemas, and United Artists. Includes titles like 'The Road to El Dorado', 'The King', and 'The Matrix'.

BOOKS

Fictional journey flashes back to time spent alone with Elvis

"Another Song About the King" Kathryn Stern (Random House, \$23.95) One sweltering summer afternoon when was all of 14 years old, Elvis Presley...



VICTORIA DIAZ

that unlikely shade of peach-pink black, had not yet costumed himself in even one bejeweled cape, and it was long before any of us had saddled him with that burdensome label, "The King."

Now comes a novel in which its lynchpin character, Simone, shares some time alone with Elvis, after which he walks out the door, never to return. It's an experience Simone never gets past, and it colors not just the remainder of her life, but the lives of those around her as well.

BOOK HAPPENINGS

Book happenings listings for various authors and titles, including 'The Millionaire Mind' by Thomas J. Stanley, 'The King' by Kathryn Stern, and 'The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg'.

ART BEAT

Art Beat features various happenings in the suburban arts world. Send Wayne County arts news leads to Art Beat, Observer-Newsletters, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia MI 48150...

LOCAL SINGER PERFORMS TODAY

Tenor Michael Parr of Livonia will sing a duet with Danica Randall in a concert by the Memorial Church Festival Choir...

Wimsical: This hand-painted chair is one of the items in an auction sponsored by Art for a Cause

The school will host a "Hot Glass Bonanza" featuring ongoing glass blowing demonstrations by CCS students...

ART FOR A CAUSE

If you love art and want to help a good cause, plan on attending an auction 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 13 at The Community House...

MOT from page C2

Madison and Broadway in 1996, DiChiera was considered either a visionary for his promising talk about the future of the downtown theater district...

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spring break tour in Ohio and Pennsylvania. During the tour 24 members of the choir will present IMAGE to three congregations...

AWARD WINNING SINGERS

Erin Gross of Farmington Hills is one of the students displaying work in "A Glass Pass-continuing through April 20 at Center for Creative Studies, 201 E. Kirby, Detroit"

ART EXHIBIT

The Farmington Community Band will award a \$500 scholarship to a student from one of the three Farmington High Schools who demonstrates a proficiency in the multi-media show

Campus-Wide Open House advertisement for Lawrence University, featuring special displays and demonstrations in architecture and design.

CASINO WINDSOR™ GIVES YOU MORE!

Casino Windsor promotional material featuring a list of entertainment events for May, June, and July, including 'MEADOW BROOK SUMMER 2000' and 'PURE PRALIE LEGUE'.



TRAVEL

# Cruise from New Orleans to Mexico

BY NORMA AND WENDY SCHONWETTER  
SPECIAL WRITERS

**D**o you want to take a cruise, see the world, eat exotic foods, drink, shop, and soak up the rays... and you're on a budget? New Orleans is just the place for you.

New Orleans is a lively port city with fascinating history, culture, architecture, food, music, steamboats, and oh yeah...cruise ships. Done right, you can do everything you want and not break the bank.

**Value**

Commodore Cruise's motto is "The best value in the Caribbean," and they mean it. Rates for the 5-day cruise start at \$359 (plus port charges of \$90); the 7-day cruise starts at \$479 (plus port charges of \$120). Shore excursions are not included in the price of the cruise. Tours range from \$28 to \$79. We cruised from New Orleans to Mexico on the Enchanted Capri - ate, gambled, played, shopped, and sunned for 5 days. The Enchanted Capri is half-owned by the Isle of Capri casino chain, located in Southern states, which means that the casino is sizable compared to other ships. Drinks are on-the-house while gambling. Dress is casual on Commodore.

**Excursions**

We stopped at Playa del Carmen to discharge passengers for shore excursion to an EcoPark at Xcaret. Then on to Cozumel and Progreso (the port for Merida). Most shore excursions on Cozumel involved snorkeling and visiting pristine white sand beaches; at Progreso the choices included visits to either of two important archeological sites (Mayan ruins) at Uxmal and Chichen-Itza.

Commodore has three small ships, carrying only 500 to 750 passengers each, with one crew member for every two passengers. The result - great service. Cruises are from five to seven days with itineraries to the Caribbean and a combination of Caribbean and Mexico, Key West or Central America (Belize and Honduras). Cabins are small and not very glamorous - but remember, you spend little time there and this is a bargain cruise. Inside cabins are more spacious but are without portholes. The few bedroom suites, the lounge, and movie theater are glitzier. For a budget cruise, the variety and excellent quality

**If you go**

■ For information and reservations on any Commodore Cruise Ship, call (800) 237-5361 or visit their Web site, [www.commodorecruise.com](http://www.commodorecruise.com)



**Jazzy:** Musicians perform in front of a boat on the Mississippi River.

■ A passport or birth certificate is required as proof of U.S. citizenship.

■ Opt for the shore excursion to the Tulum Ruins and snorkeling at Playa Del Carmen instead of Cozumel.

■ Commodore's Enchanted Isle offers youth programs for three different age groups of children at no extra charge. Plan a wedding and reception while the vessel is docked in New Orleans.

■ Call (800) 584-3183 for a "Free Good Times Guide to New Orleans," with over \$2,500 in coupons or visit their Web site, [www.new-orleans-online.com](http://www.new-orleans-online.com)

■ Check out Preservation Hall in the French Quarter where \$4 gets you some of the best jazz in the city.

■ Public transportation (buses and trolleys) save money. The St. Charles Avenue Trolley is one of the oldest continuously operating street railways offering a view of beautiful mansions of the Garden District and Carrollton Avenue.

■ Your best bet is to stay in hotels/motels on the perimeter of the French Quarter. They are quieter and reasonably priced; most include a continental breakfast. Check rates at the Ambassador Hotel, Comfort Suites, Best Western Parc St. Charles, and Chateau Dupre. Motels in the suburb of Metairie offer free shuttle service to the French Quarter.

of the meals surprised us. Diner entrees included filet mignon, prime rib and lobster tails. You can literally eat from 6 a.m. until midnight.

This is a fun ship with great group games and first class entertainment in the lounge. You can spend your casino winnings overseas in upscale shops geared to American tastes and expectations, or wait to treat yourself in New Orleans.

**Extraordinary experience**

Leave the ship by 9 a.m. when the cruise ship docks in New Orleans and you are ready to start on another extraordinary experience. New Orleans is geared to tourists. There's something for everybody. The French Quarter is an area of about 90 square blocks. It contains many historical buildings, such as The Cabildo (the Louisiana State Museum), the Presbytere, and the Old U.S. Mint. These buildings house exhibits like the History of Jazz and Mardi Gras. Walk the narrow streets and enjoy the variety of enchanting 1800s architecture, charming courtyards and elegant antique shops. Delight in the music that



**Music:** Preservation Hall in the French Quarter where traditional jazz is presented every night.

jewelry and trendy boutiques. For a taste of New Orleans try Arnaud's; Tujaques, Court of Two Sisters, Gallatoire's, The Gumbo Shop, and Ralph &

in cafe au lait and beignets at the Cafe du Monde or gamble at Harrah's.

New Orleans is famous for its eateries and unique foods, jazz, riverboats, Mardi Gras, art galleries, elegant antique shops with fine silver



**Cruising:** Enchanted Capri is one of Commodore Cruise Line's ships.

**Kacoos.**

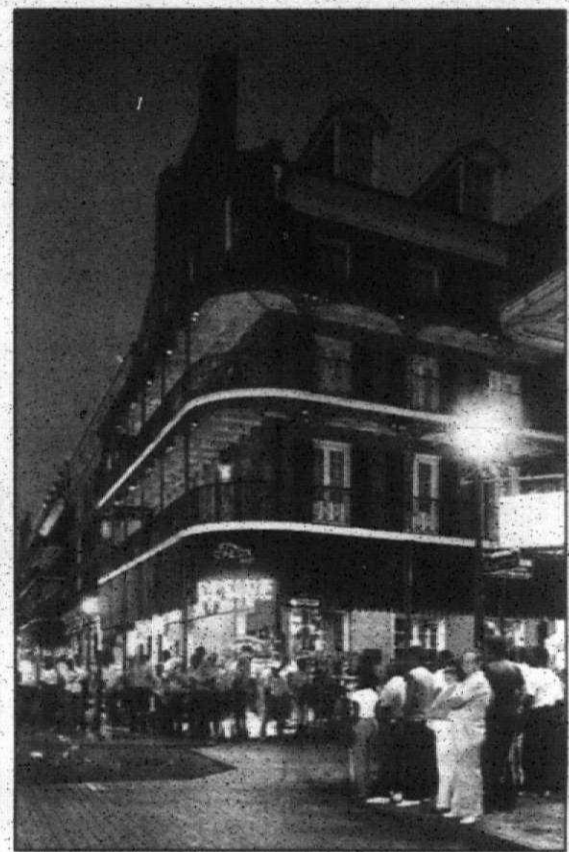
There's a first class, easy-to-get-around aquarium with many huge floor-to-ceiling tanks and adjacent IMAX Theater. The Audubon Zoo is easy to cover without too much walking. The exhibits are unusual and the grounds are imaginative, particularly the Louisiana Swamp and white alligators.

A short free ferry ride takes you to Mardi Gras World where you get insights into how those fabulous parade floats are made, as well as seeing completed floats. You can also try on flamboyant headdresses and costumes, so bring your camera.

The New Orleans Art Museum in City Park deserves the attention of art lovers. It has one of the finest collections of French painting, American artists, decorative artists and a Faberge collection.

Unique, food, family fun, tours, nightlife, and inescapable history emanating from most every street and shop - New Orleans has it all. Visit, and join the ranks of people who rave about this most unusual port city.

Norma and Wendy Schonwetter are Farmington residents. Tell us about your trip. Send stories, with photographs, for consideration on our Travel page to Keely Wygonik, Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 or e-mail stories to [kwygonik@oe.homecomm.net](mailto:kwygonik@oe.homecomm.net).



**Historical:** Buildings on Bourbon Street in the French Quarter have ornamental wrought iron railings.

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Court yard Manor - is licensed by the State of Michigan  
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**SUGARLOAF'S 8TH ANNUAL novi art fair**  
APRIL 14, 15, 16, 2000  
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FRIDAY - SUNDAY 10-6  
Craft Demonstrations  
Entertainment  
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All Indoors  
No pets please  
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Daily Admission \$6  
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COMPLIMENTS OF SUGARLOAF  
DIRECTIONS: Located on I-96 northwest of Detroit at Exit 162. Go south on Novi Road. Turn right onto Expo Center Drive.  
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**NOVI EXPO CENTER**  
Thursday, April 6, 2pm-10pm  
Friday April 7, 2pm-10pm  
Saturday, April 8, 10am-10pm  
Sunday, April 9, 10am-7pm  
Over 200 exhibitors featuring the latest technology, products and services for kitchens, baths, doors, windows, yards/garden, remodeling, furniture, spas, arts and crafts, decorative accessories, electronics, heating, cooling and appliances.  
**ADMISSION:**  
Adults - \$4, Seniors and Children 6-12- \$3,  
Children under 6 admitted FREE

**THE 2000 SPRING HOME & GARDEN SHOW**

**OVER 200 EXHIBITORS...PLUS:**  
Roger Swain, host of PBS' "The Victory Garden," shares gardening insights • Yard and garden expert Jeff Ball of "The Today Show" teaches non-gardeners how to create a beautiful landscape • Landscaped flowering gardens • Garden marketplace selling plants, flowers, bulbs, tools and yard accessories • Demonstrations on decorating, home repair and remodeling • Parade of Homes featuring a pictorial display of 105 new homes • Treasure Chest contest with daily prizes  
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**NOVI EXPO CENTER**  
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**MAIN DISH MIRACLE**



MURIEL WAGNER

## Tofu soaks up flavors in stir-fry

Tofu (bean curd) was always something I'd rather not eat, until my friend on the next treadmill at the gym suggested marinating it in black bean sauce with dry sherry. Tofu is bland but chameleon-like, taking up the flavor of its surroundings.

It's perishable and should be kept refrigerated. I bought mine in a sealed package with an expiration date. After opening I discarded the water. (It will stay fresh for a week after opening with a daily change of water.) I found the black bean sauce on the supermarket shelf.

The stir-fry vegetables in this recipe are most delicious and best in the spring — asparagus and sugar snap peas. After tasting the recipe, I not only became an ex-tofu avoider, but a charter member of the tofu booster club as well.

**TOFU-VEGETABLE STIR-FRY**

- 1 tablespoon black bean sauce
- 1 tablespoon dry sherry
- 1/4 teaspoon sugar
- 1 pound firm tofu, cubed
- 2 teaspoons, canola oil
- 1/2 cup, sodium-reduced nonfat chicken broth
- 2 tablespoons, sodium-reduced soy sauce
- 2 teaspoons, minced ginger
- 1 teaspoon, minced garlic
- 1 red bell pepper, washed and cut into strips
- 1/2 pound, fresh asparagus, washed and broken into 2-inch pieces
- 1/2 pound, sugar snap peas, washed
- 2 cups bok choy, washed and sliced
- 4 green onions, peeled and slivered
- 2 plum tomatoes, washed and quartered
- 2 cups cooked rice or Chinese noodles

Mix the black bean sauce, sherry and sugar. Add the cubed tofu. Toss. Set aside to marinate for 15 minutes.

Heat the oil in a heavy nonstick skillet or wok. Add the soy sauce, ginger and garlic. Stir to combine. Add all the vegetables except the tomatoes. Stir-fry until tender crisp, adding broth as needed. Add tomatoes. Stir-fry for one minute. Add tofu and marinade. Toss the ingredients to heat through. Serve with cooked rice or noodles. Serves 4.

**Nutritional information per serving with 1/2 cup rice:**

- Calories, 205
- Total fat, 2.5 grams
- Saturated fat, 1.8 grams
- Cholesterol, 0
- Sodium, 600 mg

**Food exchanges:**

- 1 medium fat meat
- 1 bread
- 2 vegetables

Look for Main Dish Miracle on the second Sunday of the month in Taste. Muriel G. Wagner is a registered dietitian and nutrition therapist with an office in Southfield. She publishes "Eating Younger," a quarterly newsletter with recipes and nutrition tips. To subscribe, send a check for \$13.50 to "Eating Younger," P.O. Box 69021, Pleasant Ridge, MI 48069.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

- What to watch for in Taste next week:
- Spring holiday food traditions
- Focus on Wine

# STADIUM FARE

## TOUCHES ALL THE BASES

STORIES BY RENEE SKOGLUND • PHOTOS BY BRYAN MITCHELL



Four reporters who never met before gathered around a table in the Big Cat Court and rated the food. (It was a difficult task, but somebody had to do it.) Here are our comments and ratings (from one to four tiger heads, with four being best):

- **Chicago-style hot dog**
  - "Tasty, but cold"
  - "Nicely grilled, not boiled"
  - "Too much bread"
  - "Loved the dill pickle"
- **Marinated chicken breast sandwich**
  - "Needs something"
  - "Too bland — needs some kicky mustard"
  - "Nice size"
  - "Good taste, but where's the sauce? Could've been warmer"
- **Philly-style steak sandwich**
  - "Bland — no seasoning"
  - "Ditto"
  - "Needs something"
  - "It's just beefy, you know what I mean?"
- **Gyro**
  - "Tasty"
  - "Better than the Philly"
  - "Good whatever-kind-of sauce"
  - "It's OK"
- **Hand-rolled pretzels**
  - "To die for"
  - "Oh, my God!"
  - "Mmmm, mmmm"
  - "I wish I could take a bunch home"
- **Elephant ears**
  - "Very good"
  - "Fluffy, light, delicate"
  - "Big!"
  - "Not too greasy"
- **Dippin' Dots**
  - "Unique"
  - "The pink, white and brown ones are the best"
  - "I like the banana split flavor"
  - "Kids will love it"
- **Stuffed baked potato**
  - "Ooh, this is good"
  - "Fun to eat"
  - "Not dry"
  - "Nice meal"
- **Catfish sandwich**
  - "Too much bread"
  - "Doesn't taste like anything"
  - "The only way it was Cajun is if the catfish could spell Louisiana"
  - "Needs spices"
- **Corn dog**
  - "Big"
  - "This is my first corn dog — not bad"
  - "Corn bread and a hot dog?"
  - "Nice taste, but could've been hotter"
- **Ball Park Frank**
  - "Good, as usual"
  - "Can't screw up a Ball Park Frank"
  - "Got to have a real ballpark hot dog"
  - "I love these things"

**A little hotdog trivia:**  
Fans attending Los Angeles Dodgers games hold the record for hot dog consumption among the major league teams. An estimated 2.2 million are consumed each year. Overall, Americans will eat 26 million hot dogs in major league ballparks throughout the country, enough to stretch from Yankee Stadium in New York to Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles.

Source: National Hot Dog & Sausage Council, www.hot-dog.org

Take me out to the ball game. Take me out to the crowd. Buy me some peanuts and ... gyros, corn dogs, corned beef, barbecued pork, Cajun catfish, Caesar salads, and lots of luscious golden fries.

Whew! Did I miss anything? Of course, hot dogs! Comerica Park serves them Chicago-style with tomatoes, onions and a dill pickle; Coney-style with chili; and your basic, no-nonsense, got-to-have-one Ball Park Frank.

Press Day at Comerica Park earlier this week was a grand slam assignment for any reporter. Not only did we tour the new ballpark, we sampled all the food, from frozen yogurt pellets to sugar-dusted elephant ears big as a catcher's mitt.

"We added lots of new items, new to the baseball market in Detroit," said Steve Facione of Clarkston, group vice president for Olympia Entertainment Inc. "But we have the same hot dog, the same great ballpark hot dog."

Foodwise, attending a ball game at Comerica Park is like a day at the state fair. Walk into the Big Cat Court and your eyes sweep a semi-circle of eight eateries, including Lots O' Knots, which makes wonderfully tender and buttery hand-rolled pretzels for \$2.75. Add a side of hot cheese for 75 cents and you've reached pretzel perfection.

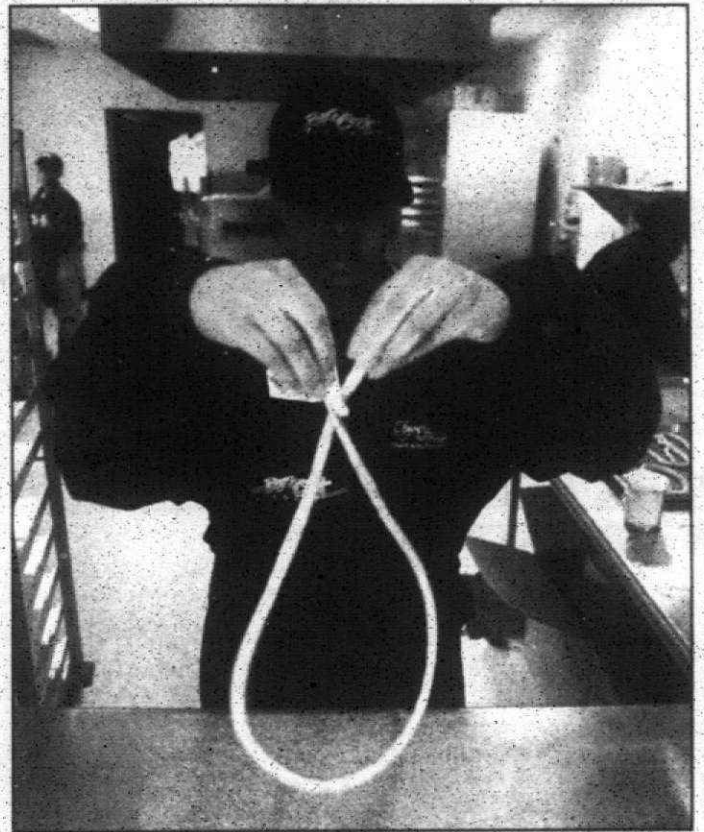
"That pretzel is to die for," said Connie Kline, executive assistant and office manger for WDWB-TV (Channel 20) in Southfield. "Simply to die for."

**'Something different'**

Measuring 100 feet in diameter, Big Cat Court is behind Section 119 on the first-base side of the main concourse. After you've polished off the pretzel, you might try a stuffed baked potato and some chicken fingers from Side Kicks. Or a Philly-style steak hoagie with mushrooms, cheese and sweet peppers from Subs & Hoagies. Or a bat-sized corn dog never to be served at a cardiology convention.

In other words, come hungry and bring money. Leave your will power at home.

"We wanted to do something different," said John Baaki of Farmington Hills, director of



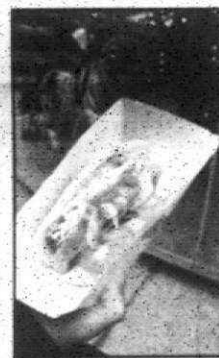
All tied up: Blair Woods hand-rolls a pretzel at Lots O' Knots in the new Comerica Park. A Chicago-style hot dog is pictured below.

concessions for Olympia Entertainment, Inc. "We wanted to create two concepts in the court: the sandwich foods and the state fair type of food — the corn dogs, elephant ears and pretzels. It's a very family-oriented area with the carousel."

**Carousel?**

Yup, and it's a beauty. Said to be the pride of Tigers owner Mike Ilitch, the carousel is the focal point of Big Cat Court. Riders can take a spin on one of 30 brightly painted, handcrafted tigers or ride in one of two carousels, one of which is wheelchair accessible. Suggestion: Don't eat before you ride.

If you're in the mood for some grilled goodies, head to the Brushfire Grill, a 16,000-square-foot open-air garden area with wood picnic tables



and a fountain with a giant floating baseball. The barbecued sandwiches — roast beef, smoked turkey and pulled pork — are the size of first base. Well, maybe I exaggerate ... but they are baseball big.

A regular-size sandwich at the Brushfire Grill sells for \$7.50, while the deluxe version (why not, your diet already struck out!) goes for \$8.50 and comes with cole slaw and baked beans. And if you feel like "vegging out," try the grilled portobello mushroom sandwich with roasted red peppers and pesto mayonnaise at \$7.50.

**Belly up to this bar**

We all know rooting for the Tigers is hard work. So why not

Please see FARE, D2



Going to Comerica Park with some family or friends? Bring your wallet and you can try the variety of foods the stadium offers. For a family of four, you can expect to pay about \$28 for four hot dogs, four bags of potato chips and four medium soft drinks.\*

**A sampling of food and beverage prices:**

- Hot dogs - \$2.75
- Kielbasa and smoked sausage - \$3.75
- Large popcorn - \$3.25
- Peanuts - \$3.50
- Pizza slice - \$2.50
- Corned beef, turkey or steak sandwich - \$6
- Chicken Caesar salad - \$6
- Chicken fingers - \$3.25
- Super-pretzel - \$2.50
- Nacho grande - \$6
- Large french fry - \$3
- Ice cream sandwich - \$1.50
- Pop - \$2 - \$3.75
- Beer - \$4.50 - \$7.25
- Bottled water - \$2.75

\* You may want to check on ticket packages for the Popcorn Family Section in right field. For \$8 a ticket, you can also get a hot dog or a pizza slice and a small soft drink.



Supposedly Jack Norworth, who wrote the words to "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" in 1908, had never seen a major league baseball game until after his song was published. Maybe he was too busy getting married five times. Albert Von Tilzer wrote the music. Tiger fans have long substituted "peanuts" for "popcorn" in the original lyrics, and it has become the official Michigan version. In case you want to sing along on opening day, here's it is:

Take me out to the ballgame,  
take me out to the crowd.  
Buy me some popcorn and Cracker Jack,  
I don't care if we never get back.  
So it's root, root, root for the home team.  
If they don't win it's a shame.  
For it's one, two, three strikes you're out  
at the old ball game!







MEDICAL DATEBOOK

Items for Medical Datebook are welcome from all hospitals, physicians, companies and residents active in the Observer area's medical community.

ONGOING

OVEREATERS Overeater Anonymous will meet every Sunday 7-8:30 p.m.

AA & ALANON Alcoholics Anonymous & Alanon meet Wednesdays and Sundays from 8:30-9:30 p.m.

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS Marquette House, a residential assisted living facility in Westland, will hold blood pressure screenings every fourth Tuesday.

WEIGHT LOSS CLUB The Merry Bowl Trimmers Club, a weight loss support group, meets at 7 p.m. every Tuesday at the Livonia Senior Civic Center.

THROUGH MAY 2 FOOD FOR HOLISTIC HEALTH The Tree House in Farmington, 22906 Mooney Street, offers a seven-week class 7-9 p.m.

Tobacco

Consequences of smoking outlined

revels included there are 1,525,860 smokers in Michigan, representing 21% of adults.

Are You Depressed?

Answer the following questions based on the last 2 weeks or more. YES NO 1. I feel sad, unhappy, self critical.

SAT, APRIL 15

FOOD FOR HOLISTIC HEALTH The Tree House in Farmington, 22906 Mooney Street, presents a "Health Starts with Food" class 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

TUES, APRIL 18

BONE DENSITY Alterra-Clare Bridge of Livonia, 32500 Seven Mile, will feature a discussion on "Osteoporosis and Bone Density."

TUE, APRIL 11

HORMONE REPLACEMENT The Henry Ford Medical Center-Fairlane will sponsor a lecture on "Hormone Replacement Therapy and Natural Hormones" 7 p.m.

WED, APRIL 12

STROKE SCREENING Life Line Screening will conduct stroke and vascular disease tests - carotid artery, abdominal aortic aneurysm and ankle brachial index - at the Marquette House.

FRI, APRIL 14

STRESS MANAGEMENT Madonna University in Livonia will host a stress management lecture featuring John M. Cotter, Ph.D., a staff psychologist in Botaford Hospital's Department of Neurology and certified hypnotherapist.

Read the Community Life section every Thursday



HEART ATTACK. STROKE. HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE. DON'T YOU THINK THERE ARE SOME FAMILY TRADITIONS YOU SHOULD DO WITHOUT? Families share a lot more than a last name. However, the things they have in common aren't always that obvious.

THUR, MAY 18

IMMUNIZATION CLINIC Providence Mission Health Medical Center-Livonia will host an immunization event from 4-7 p.m.

TUE, MAY 23

RESTLESS LEG SYNDROME Do you or someone you know suffer from restless leg syndrome? There is support available and a wealth of new information.

SAT, JUNE 10

CARDIAC LIFE SUPPORT Prerequisite for initial training: proof of current Health Care Provider BLS card.

THUR, JULY 20

IMMUNIZATION CLINIC Providence Mission Health Medical Center-Livonia will host an immunization event from 4-7 p.m.

MON, SEPT. 11

THYROID DISORDERS The Michigan Thyroid Disorder Support Group will meet at 6:30 in the Plymouth Library.

Will time tell how low-tech stocks will go?



MIKE WENDLAND

Good-bye new economy. Hello old economy. The bubble has indeed burst. Individual investors by the millions are cashing in and taking their dwindling high-tech fortunes out of the tech-heavy Nasdaq.

What all the analysts are missing, I believe, is the ominous story of failure that hangs over the head of hundreds of new dot-com firms.

BUSINESS CALENDAR

- Items from the Observerland area for the Business Calendar can be sent to: Observer Newspaper, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, MI 48150 attention: Business Calendar.
- FRIDAY, APRIL 14 BUSINESS IN CHINA Oakland University's Professional Development and Education Outreach, School of Education and Human Services (SEHS) will present "Opening Doors in the 21st Century."

BUSINESS MARKETPLACE

Items for Business Marketplace are welcome from all companies and residents active in the Observer-area business community.

THUR, APRIL 20 GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS "How to Become a Government Contractor," a seminar sponsored by Schoolcraft College will be held from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thursday, April 20.

lion a month, according to the First Call Thompson Financial company, which tracks insider sales. Last month, those sales totaled \$12 billion, with the huge surge attributed to technology execs unloading their shares.

Net execs dump stocks If anybody had been looking, saying this week's crash of the tech market could have been foreseen in the way a lot of top tech execs have been handling their stock holdings in recent days.

FRI, MAY 12 FIESTA HISPANA BALL The Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce hosts its 11th Anniversary Fiesta Hispana Ball at the Ritz Carlton in Dearborn.

BUSINESS CALENDAR continued with items for Plymouth Obstetrics & Gynecology Specialists.

Catch This Golden Offer! For a limited time only, we're offering a Golden Anniversary 18-month fixed rate Share Certificate. These certificates offer great rates, are compounded and paid quarterly, and are federally insured by the NCUA.

# Meijer collaborates to provide medical equipment discounts

A Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan program called BlueSafe, which offers discounts on injury prevention equipment, has been expanded to offer savings on 19 health and safety items at all 63 Michigan Meijer locations.

Meijer's participation means that Blues members and the public can redeem special coupons at all Michigan Meijer stores for savings from \$1 to \$20 on certain health and safety products.

"This arrangement allows us to expand the availability of discounts on a number of safety

products to Blues members and the public," said Dale Robertson, Blues vice president of West Michigan. "This is a great idea for a partnership between Meijer and the Blues and we're hoping that the coupons will be an added incentive for the citizens throughout Michigan to purchase items that can prevent serious injuries."

"This project has the potential to impact lives in a very positive way," said John Zimmerman, director of consumer affairs for Meijer Stores. "Blue Cross and Meijer Stores have teamed up to help prevent injuries to our cus-

tomers and to people in the community. We think that's pretty special."

Blues members and the public can use the Meijer coupons for discounts on the following items:

- Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors
- Bicycle/in-line skating helmets and padding
- Child car seats and boosters
- Baby gates and portable bed rails
- Fire extinguishers and escape ladders
- First aid kits
- Roadside emergency kits
- Treadmills and exercise

bikes. Damman Hardware is the only other participant in the BlueSafe program to offer redeemable coupons. Blues members and the public can use the coupons at all 17 southeast Michigan Damman stores for discounts on smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and fire escape ladders.

The BlueSafe program also has an arrangement with Wright & Filippis, Dunham's Sports and MC Sports to provide savings to Blues members when they present their Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan or Blue Care

Network membership cards at the checkout.

Wright & Filippis' participation provides Blues members with 20-percent discounts on all home health aids at its 23 stores located throughout Michigan.

Some discounted home health items include:

- bathroom railings, grab bars, safety seats and scales
- maternity and breastfeeding products
- blood pressure kits
- diabetes supplies
- first aid kits, heating pads, hot/cold packs
- athletic braces and support

pillows

- thermoscan instant thermometers

Blues members also can present their membership cards and save 20 percent on the following safety equipment and products at Dunham's Sports and MC Sports stores in Michigan: bicycle/in-line skating helmets and pads; athletic braces and supports; life jackets and vests; trigger locks for firearms (only at Dunham's).

The booklet of coupons may be obtained by calling the toll-free BlueSafe hotline, 877-BLUE-SAFE (258-3723).

# Be aware of facial injuries caused during sports-related activities

Spring brings May flowers. But it can also bring major facial injuries for kids and adults playing a myriad of sports without proper protection. For oral and maxillofacial surgeons — national experts at dealing with facial trauma — Spring is the time to remember sports should include injury prevention as well as fun.

That's why the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS) — and its 6,000 OMS members nationwide — are sponsoring "April Is National Facial Protection Month."

"Each year, 250,000 Americans will suffer needless facial trauma from sports injuries," says Dr. Bill Nelson, DDS, of Green Bay, Wisconsin. Dr. Nelson, who serves on the medical staff for the Green Bay Packers, recalls a high school basketball player who was elbowed in the mouth during a game.

The player lost his upper front teeth and required dental implants and crowns. "A mouth guard would have prevented that type of injury," stressed Dr. Nelson. The young athlete would also have saved time lost from school.

Dr. Nelson added, "A great number of dental and facial injuries occur with kids in contact sports. Yet, it's rare to see these injuries in football or hockey, where the use of mouth guards is required. There is an increase in volleyball, soccer, and basketball injuries. Mouth guards are not required for these sports. It's been shown that wearing protective gear decreases the severity and frequency of injuries in contact sports."

### Take precautions

The National Youth Sports Safety Foundation estimates that more than three million teeth will be knocked out in youth sporting activities this year. Nearly 60,000 people, more than half of them children, injure their faces annually while playing baseball.

In addition, doctors treat roughly 4,000 soccer players each year for facial injuries. It's not only the athletes incurring injuries but spectators as well. There are over 19,000 accidents each year to fans in the bleachers.

A look at sporting activities on wheels reveals over 500,000 people involved in bicycle accidents, with one fifth of them injuring their faces. In-line skating acci-

dents exceed 25,000 annually, and skateboarding accidents are nearly double that number.

Another source of facial injuries is automobile accidents. Annually, more than 96,000 people require treatment of oral injuries or maxillofacial fractures from car accidents.

Avoiding injury is the best route to a healthy lifestyle. OMSes advocate wearing helmets and mouth guards during various sports and using seatbelts in cars and trucks.

The AAOMS encourages adults and children to wear protective equipment while engaged

in activities such as bicycle and motorcycle riding, skateboarding, rollerblading, soccer, football, skiing, baseball, ice hockey, wrestling, boxing, lacrosse, basketball, and field hockey, among others.

For example, basketball players typically don't wear mouth guards. Yet,

■ approximately 34% of all injuries to basketball players involve teeth and/or the oral cavity.

■ In soccer, only 7% of players regularly wear mouth guards.

The good news is the public is adhering to some safety precau-

tions. Dr. Dexter Barber, DDS, of Philadelphia says, "Today, there aren't as many head injuries from bicycling due to more people wearing helmets." However, with the increased popularity of skateboarding and in-line skating, Dr. Barber sees an increase in nose injuries, soft tissue injuries, abrasions, and loss of teeth.

### Cost savings

Injury prevention not only saves people from harm but also from needless costs. Rehabilitation expenses for one lost tooth exceed 20 times the cost of a professional grade mouth guard.

Sports injuries to youth below age 14, for 29 different sports, cost the American public nearly 49 million dollars annually.

Oral and maxillofacial surgeons want to get the word out about facial protection. Domestic abuse, severe sunburn, and numerous on-the-job accidents are further sources of facial trauma.

"April Is National Facial Protection Month" is the AAOMS's inaugural observance in Health Observances & Recognition Days 2000 Calendar. The calendar is published by the Society for Healthcare Strategy and Market Development of the American

Hospital Association. OMSes are facial trauma experts and leaders in hospital ER trauma care. In addition to holding dental degrees, OMSes complete four or more years of postdoctoral in-hospital surgical residency training, which includes intensive training in cosmetic surgery and reconstruction for injuries to the mouth, face, and jaw.

For more information about facial protection, about oral and maxillofacial surgery, and to receive free literature on facial injuries and sports safety, contact the AAOMS at (847) 678-6200. You may also visit their web site at www.aaoms.org

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with Dr. Audrey Bruell  
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**ERIK BROCKOVICH (R)**  
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