

Pointe municipalities' investments on conservative ground

By Chip Chapman Staff Writer

Anyone who's worried about what happened in Orange County, Calif., need not be too concerned about a municipal financial disaster occurring here.

Conservative is the best word to describe municipal general fund investments in the five Grosse Pointes.

Earlier this month, rising interest rates, combined with risky investment strategies, resulted in a \$2 billion loss in Orange County's investment pool.

"Basically, we have all of our investments in CDs (certificates of deposit), and a T-bill (Treasury bill) with the cable (sale) money," said James Nash, controller for Grosse Pointe Farms.

"No one in the metro area can do what Orange County did, with derivatives and leveraging."

"We have very conservative investments. My goal is not to make money for the city. It's to not lose any of the city's money."

The Farms' portfolio from tax collections amounts to \$2.5 million.

"Our general fund investments are pretty conservative," said Dennis Foran, finance director for the City of Grosse Pointe. "In Michigan, there is a government-pooled fund for municipalities and school systems which is regulated by the state. We put about \$3.5 million in one of these funds at NBD and about \$4 million in Treasury bills."

State law prohibits municipalities from investing in stocks, bonds and real estate. However, these types of investments are allowed for municipal pension funds.

"We always strive for conservative investments," said Dale Krajniak, Grosse Pointe Park city manager. "We first look at an investment which will protect the principal, and secondly,

we look at the rate of return." The Park keeps its money collected from property taxes in CDs and T-bills.

Taxes collected in the summer might go toward long-term investments, with winter and school taxes invested more for the short term.

"The village's investments See INVEST, page 2A"

A Community Newspaper

Grosse Pointe News

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WEEK AHEAD

Friday, Dec. 23 The Men's Ecumenical Friday Breakfast will be at 7:30 a.m. in the Grosse Pointe Memorial Church...

Saturday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve, the last day of shopping before the big event. Churches across Grosse Pointe will hold special Christmas services...

Sunday, Dec. 25 Merry Christmas!

Monday, Dec. 26 Many government offices, including the post office, will be closed. The Park City Council meeting scheduled for 7 p.m. has been cancelled...

INSIDE

Opinion .....6A Schools.....9A Autos.....12A Obituaries.....13A Seniors.....14A Sports.....16A Business.....20A Features.....1B Entertainment....7B Classified ads ..10C

WE'RE CONCERNED ABOUT YESTERDAY'S NEWS. News can appear one day and be gone the next. But the paper news is printed on can and should live on. Last year, more than one third of all U.S. newspapers was recycled. And that number is growing every day. Recycling is the one way we can all give something back. Read. Then Recycle.



Christmas pairs Teens were filled with the holiday spirit last week at the Christmas Youth Dance at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial. Among the couples were Justin Bosley and Katy Lenz, left, and Justin Sigon and Libby Wagman.

2 Gravel killers draw life sentences

By Shirley A. McShane Staff Writer Almost five years after the fact, the Wayne County prosecutor got his wish - the two men who admitted they killed Grosse Pointe businessman Benjamin Gravel in 1990 were sentenced on Dec. 19 in Recorder's Court to life without parole.

But Kermit Haynes, 21, and Cortez Miller, 20, both being held in Wayne County Jail, are awaiting a hearing scheduled for January in which they will ask Recorder's Chief Judge Dalton Roberson to withdraw their guilty pleas and order new trials.

Woods delays vote on 25 pct. hike in boat well fees

By Jim Stickford Staff Writer After more than two hours of debate and against the advice of the city administrator, the Grosse Pointe Woods City Council agreed Monday night to delay voting on raising boat well fees to give boat owners time to look at cost figures for maintaining a marina at Lakefront Park.

The furor is over a controversial report by city administrator Peter Thomas and city comptroller Cliff Maison. The report stated that it costs the city about \$181,000 a year to operate the city marina. The report went on to say that the city gets about \$129,000 in fees from boat owners.

"The city's recreation commission asked us to determine the actual cost of running the marina, a 'true accounting,'" said Maison. "We determined the number of employee man hours that they worked on marina business."

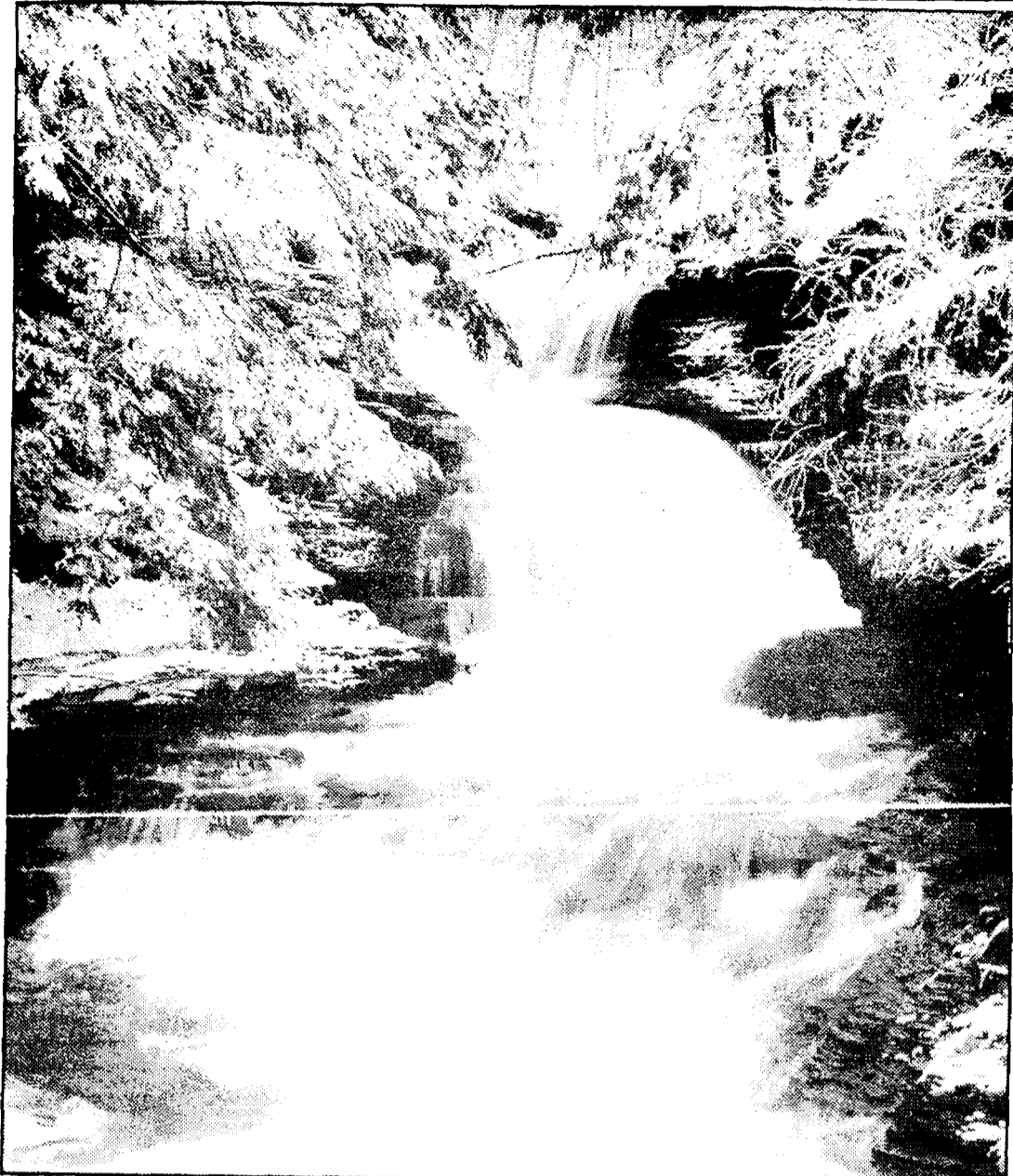
'The city's recreation commission asked us to determine the actual cost of running the marina, a "true accounting," . . . (W)e came up with a figure of about \$181,000.' The city gets about \$129,000 in fees from boat owners. Comptroller Cliff Maison Grosse Pointe Woods

Farms boatwell fees go up for 1995

By Chip Chapman Staff Writer In order to cover its costs and make sure non-boat owners aren't subsidizing those who keep their boats at the Pier Park, the Grosse Pointe Farms City Council last week approved a 5 percent increase in boatwell fees for the 1995 season.

POINTER OF INTEREST

John Diebel Home: G.P. Park Age: 57 Family: Wife, Ann Occupation: Retired PR executive Claim to fame: Wrote a musical, "Emilie and Voltaire," which will be presented in two workshops sponsored by Grosse Pointe Theatre Quote: "I took moderate liberties with the facts, but basically it's historically accurate." See story, page 4A John Diebel



The holidays offer the perfect time to head outdoors to capture dramatic winter scenes on film. This is Old Mill Falls near Ithaca, N.Y.

## Holiday shots highlight the year

I like to write annually on probably the best time of the year for recording treasured family memories with your camera — the holidays.

Christmas and children go hand in hand, so let's begin with them. Remember to move in close to fill the frame and get down on their level. Concentrate on candid as the kids unwrap their presents from under the tree and begin to play with their new toys. Your photos will appear natural because in all the excitement, the children won't even know you're there.

But don't forget other family members. For group shots, have everyone sit or stand around informally rather than stiffly posed. Even try some candid as you did with the kids. Try including yourself in the picture by using the self-timer and placing the camera on a tripod or steady table.

As always, check your backgrounds for unwanted or distracting objects. And watch out for undesirable reflections from windows, mirrors or picture glass that may ruin a treasured shot. Most often, a slight adjustment in camera angle eliminates this problem.

Keep alert for other Christmas subjects that will add variety and interest to your holiday pictures. A colorfully filled stocking, a beautifully wrapped present, or a sparkling tree ornament will all reward you with a fine yuletide shot.

Take advantage of today's fast films. Using 1000 or 1600 speed films, try lighting some scenes only with candlelight. Your dinner table or a family member lit only by candles will produce that unforgettable romantic shot. An exposure of f-2 at 1/30 second is all that's needed.

Need a last-minute stocking stuffer? How about one of the Fuji or Kodak disposable panora-

## Photography

By Monte Nagler



rama cameras? They're inexpensive and produce surprisingly good results. A supply of film, a new camera bag, or a beautiful photo-filled 1995 calendar will please any photographer.

Here's another unusual gift idea. "Borrow" dad's old home movies, you know — the ones collecting dust on the top shelf — and have them transferred to

video. Imagine his and everyone's delight when you pop them into the VCR for a memorable holiday treat.

And at holiday time, we're usually ankle deep in nature's blanket of winter snow. So bundle up both you and your camera to capture some exciting winter scenes on film.

Happy holidays to all my readers and friends.

## Invest

From page 1A

are generally in commercial paper that has at least an A1 or A2 rating," said Rhonda Gaskill, finance officer for Grosse Pointe Shores. "These are interest-bearing notes from \$100,000 and up and can be invested in a company, generally from 30 to 90 days, depending on our cash flow.

"We usually get a better rate (of return) with commercial paper than we do with CDs."

The Shores also has investments in the government-funded pool for municipalities and school systems.

"The village now has about \$1.6 million in commercial paper and about \$200,000 in the investment pool and our checking account," she said.

Gaskill added that Grosse Pointe Township, which collects the taxes, has accounts that are separate from those of the village. The township's investments are in commercial paper.

"All of our investments are

in short-term CDs at Comerica and First Federal," said Cliff Maison, comptroller and treasurer for Grosse Pointe Woods. "I get a better rate with CDs. I use T-bill rates as my yardstick to measure what CD rate we should be getting."

The Woods has between \$5 million and \$6 million in in-

vestments during the peak of the tax season.

Only investments from municipal tax collections, NOT municipal employees' contributions toward pension funds, were discussed in this article.

## News Deadlines

The Grosse Pointe News wants to help you publicize your events. To ensure that all items have an opportunity to get into the paper in a timely manner, deadlines for receipt of copy will be printed here each week.

All items for the Features and Entertainment sections must be in by 3 p.m. Friday to be considered for the following week's paper.

All items for the Sports section must be in by 10 a.m. Monday for that week's paper.

All items for the News section, including letters to the editor, must be in by 3 p.m. Monday for that week's paper.

The Grosse Pointe News will try to get all items into the paper that are turned in by deadline, but sometimes space doesn't allow it.

Any questions? Call the news department at 882-0294.

## Classified/Display Advertising Deadlines

Classified Real Estate Deadline: Noon, Friday.

All other Classified Advertising must be placed by noon, Tuesday.

The deadline for Display Advertising space reservation is 5:00pm Friday.

Advertising copy requiring client proof must be submitted to Display Advertising by 2:00 pm Friday.

Advertising copy for the second and third sections must be received by Display Advertising by 11:00 am Monday.

Display Advertising for the first section must be received by 10:30 am Tuesday.

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The deadline for news copy is Monday noon to insure insertion.  
Advertising copy for Section "B" must be in the advertising department by 11:00 a.m. on Monday. The deadline for advertising copy for Sections A & C is 10:30 a.m. Tuesday.  
CORRECTIONS AND ADJUSTMENTS  
Responsibility for display and classified advertising error is limited to either cancellation of the charge for or a re-run of the portion in error. Notification must be given in time for correction in the following issue. We assume no responsibility of the same after the first insertion.  
The Grosse Pointe News reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Grosse Pointe News advertising representatives have no authority to bind this newspaper and only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance of the advertiser's order.

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# Woods man enjoyed brief 'skiing' experience during Battle of the Bulge

By Chip Chapman  
Staff Writer

"I tried to get into the Air Corps, the Marines, I tried a number of services," said Benjamin Prescott, of Grosse Pointe Woods. "One found trouble with my eyesight, one found another physical problem. Then the Army said, 'You're warm, we'll take you.'"

Prescott, a native of Penacook, N.H., came to Detroit in 1941 to work for the Packard Motor Car Co. He entered the service in November 1942.

Off to Camp Callan, Calif., Prescott went for anti-aircraft training and then in May 1943 to Officers Candidate School in Camp Davis, N.C.

He finished OCS that September and was assigned to an airborne unit in Camp Stewart, Ga.

"This was one of those units that was to fly in gliders on D-Day, behind the transport planes," he said. "They told us we would be in training for at least 18 months. They said anyone who was married should have their wives come down to the Savannah (Ga.) area."

Prescott's wife-to-be, Doretta, a native Detroit, came south and they married on Nov. 27, 1943, in the chapel on the base at Camp Stewart.

They lived in a duplex with very thin walls.

"Pistol-packin' Mama" was the big tune at that time," Prescott said. "The people on the other side of the duplex worked in the shipyards in Savannah. They would come home late at night and on would come 'Pistol-packin' Mama.'"

Within two weeks, Prescott's unit was deactivated.

"I never got into a glider or even had any training in a glider," he said. "Truthfully, as I look back on it, I was lucky."

Prescott was assigned to an officer replacement pool with orders to report overseas. After a furlough back in New Hampshire, he reported to Fort Meade in Maryland for more training and then headed back north to Boston where he boarded the Britannic for England in early 1944.

Prescott landed in Bristol and spent some time there awaiting further orders. From Bristol he went to Cardiff, Wales, to an officer replacement pool. There he received his final assignment.

"I was assigned to the 462nd AAA/AW (Anti-Aircraft Artillery/Automatic Weapons) Battalion in Swanage on June 1, just a few days before D-Day," he said. "When I joined this group, they had been preparing for the invasion. I didn't have a lot of time to get to know the guys that I would be going with."

At 1 a.m. on June 6, Prescott's unit was told to report to breakfast because they would be moving out to Southampton at 8 a.m.

"It was still dark, but you could hear the bombers returning from the beachheads at Normandy," Prescott said. "Later that morning, some British soldiers confirmed the landing at Normandy."

Prescott's unit was in a staging area in Southampton on

the night of June 7 when orders were received to load equipment onto a Liberty ship.

They left for the Normandy coast on June 9.

"They couldn't make up their mind whether they wanted to unload us on Utah or Omaha beach," Prescott said. "We unloaded the 40 mm Bofors anti-aircraft guns on these flat-topped landing barges. One of the flat-tops got hung up on a truck that had sunk. We waited for a number of hours until high tide before getting ashore at Omaha Beach."

The unit went up a hill to a de-waterproofing area and then joined the 2nd Infantry Division on June 12 at Cerisy La-Forêt, a wooded area nearby.

"Our mission was to provide anti-aircraft protection for the 2nd Infantry Division's artillery units," Prescott said. "The battalion's first engagement with a German ME109, on June 15, was successful. We shot it down."

"There was considerable tension in those early days as the Germans were threatening to drive us back into the ocean."

By July 25, the Allied divisions broke out of the beachhead and began the all-out offensive.

"St. Lo was the first city taken over," Prescott said. "From our position we could see the planes coming over from St. Lo."

Prescott's unit was separated from the 2nd Infantry Division (which went to Brest) after encircling the Germans in the Falaise Gap. His unit then joined the 406th Field Artillery Group in early August.

"There was heavy fighting as we moved toward Paris," Prescott said. "A reconnaissance party from B Battery of the 462nd AAA/AW Battalion crossed the Seine River on Aug. 26 and was one of the first units to enter Paris."

Prescott's unit was stationed around the bridges and railroad yards of the city, but the stay there was fairly uneventful. They set up outside the palace at Versailles.

"Our battalion was smart," Prescott said. "We kept our headquarters in Paris and our guns in Versailles. Paris was off limits to all troops except those headquartered there."

After three weeks in Versailles, Prescott's unit went to Verdun, which had come under the control of the 3rd Army under Gen. George Patton.

This was supposed to be a rest period for Prescott, but he had a close call.

"My driver and I were driving over a railroad bridge," he said. "All of a sudden, we heard a 'zing.' Someone had strung piano wire across the bridge. The only thing that saved us was a bar on the front of the Jeep, which snapped it. We had gone over the bridge just a short time before, and there was nothing across it."

Not long after this incident, Prescott said, Patton ordered that the bars be removed from the front of Jeeps because "they didn't look right."

Prescott's unit left Verdun in early October and rejoined the 2nd Infantry Division in St. Vith, Belgium, near the Ger-



Lt. Benjamin Prescott took part in the invasion of Normandy and the Battle of the Bulge.

man border.

"The Belgian people were not very receptive to the American troops," he said. "They told us the Germans would be back. We were prepared to dig in for the winter."

On Dec. 10, the 106th Division, a rookie division fresh from the United States, relieved the 2nd Infantry. Prescott's unit moved north about 30 miles to Camp Elsenborn.

The Germans opened the Ardennes offensive on Dec. 16, cutting through St. Vith and the 106th Division. The 634th AAA Battalion, which relieved Prescott's unit, also suffered heavy losses.

"I had to take the half-tracks, some bazooka teams and join the infantry on the Bulge and help form the fall-back lines," Prescott said. "The weather was cold and snowy at the time. Once we were in position on the upper flank of the Bulge, we never pulled back any further."

This was the beginning of the Battle of the Bulge.

"In our area, the north rim of the Bulge, cooks, clerks and mechanics all served as fighting men against the highly mechanized German army," Prescott said. "Half-tracks and bazooka teams from the 462nd were moved into a final defensive line behind the infantry. Many of us had close calls from artillery and mortar fire during this period."

During this time, Prescott "liberated" a pair of skis, using them to get to and from his

gun sections. On one of these treks, he became a target for a sniper.

"He missed and I got out of there in a hurry," Prescott said. "I didn't use the skis too much after that."

By Dec. 25, the fog had lifted, the sun broke through and Allied aircraft were able to make their presence known.

"It was the beginning of the end of the Battle of the Bulge," Prescott said.

The next major push was to-

ward the Rhine River.

"We ended up at Remagen," Prescott said. "We set our guns on the hill by the bridge there on March 9. Numerous German planes appeared in this area, but were destroyed by the anti-aircraft artillery fire."

After the bridge was taken, a pontoon bridge was constructed just down the river. The 2nd Infantry crossed the pontoon bridge after the Remagen bridge finally collapsed.

"We crossed the pontoon on the first day of spring," Prescott said. "Once we crossed the Rhine, things moved pretty fast."

"The job now was to take Leipzig on April 19. Prescott's unit was ordered to go back to the gasoline depots to bring back fuel for tanks."

"There was quite a battle around Leipzig," Prescott said. "The Germans had a lot of 88s, anti-aircraft guns, there. They would lower them down to ground-level position."

Prescott's unit then took a position along the Mulde River.

"It looked like the 2nd Infantry would be the unit to link up with the Russians at the Elbe River, just 18 miles away," Prescott said. "Headquarters limited the 2nd Infantry Division to patrols, where they remained in a defensive position."

Prescott's unit stayed on occupation duty, picking up displaced citizens in Germany and taking them to camps set up by the Russians in Czechoslovakia and Austria.

"Meeting with the Russians meant many toasts to Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin," Prescott said.

The 462nd went back to the United States, but Prescott, not having enough "points," stayed in Europe. He left the service

as a lieutenant, returning to the United States in January 1946.

The 462nd AAA/AW was responsible for shooting down nearly 100 enemy planes. The 462nd received a commendation from the 2nd Infantry Division for outstanding performance of duty in combat operations.

Prescott returned to Detroit and his job at Packard. He also worked for the Timkin Axle Co. and the Chrysler Corp. before retiring in 1980.

This past summer, he returned to Normandy for the 50th anniversary of the D-Day invasion.

"I always felt fortunate to have been assigned to the 462nd," Prescott said. "They had extensive training in the States and England. The officers and men that I served with knew their equipment well and used it to its capabilities."

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There will be no residential rubbish collection on Monday, December 26, 1994 and Monday, January 2, 1995. All residential collections will be one day late. Examples: Monday's will be collected Tuesday — Tuesday's routes on Wednesday, etc.

Business and commercial routes will be collected as follows:  
Wednesday, December 28, 1994  
Friday, December 30, 1994  
Wednesday, January 4, 1995  
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Prescott, far right, and members of his unit pose by an anti-aircraft gun during the winter of 1944-45.

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In choosing toys this holiday season, here are just a few safety tips to keep in mind:

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- Check that non-toxic paints are used on finished materials.
- Make sure that cloth toys are made of non-flammable fabrics.
- And please teach your children how to safely enjoy their new toys and where to put them after they have finished playing.
- If you have questions or safety concerns about a toy, contact the manufacturer directly.

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## Park Foundation has some big plans for 1995

By Jim Stickford  
Staff Writer

With 1994 coming to a close, the Grosse Pointe Park Foundation has begun planning its projects for 1995, which include a fountain and a new park path.

Foundation president Lou Perrone said the foundation recently sent out fundraising letters to Park residents for the 1995 projects.

"Our plans for the future aren't as expansive as they've been in the past," said Perrone. "We'll be doing some landscaping as well as placing a fountain in front of city hall. We're also planning on putting a pedestrian walkway in Patterson Park and are also looking at purchasing an outdoor refrigeration unit for an outdoor ice rink at Patterson Park as well."

These projects, said Perrone, are consistent with previous foundation efforts. The foundation built the boardwalk at Patterson Park, built the Tompkins Center at Windmill Pointe Park, and just last year installed lights along the first few blocks of the Jefferson Avenue median.

"Those lights really made that part of Jefferson attractive at night," Perrone said. "We want to do the same thing for city hall. I've lived in the Park for 41 years, and the city hall has remained the same. We'd like to update it a little."

The landscaping and the fountain should cost about \$45,000, said Perrone, and it won't take long to install. The foundation hopes to have the project completed by the end of next spring.

"The foundation is looking at purchasing a refrigeration unit for about \$30,000," Perrone said. "Normally, a new unit costs over \$100,000. The rink would be open to residents in the winter, and during the summer it would be a reflecting pond. We need it because winter weather can be unpredictable, freezing one day, sunny and warm the next."

The city council has yet to give final approval for all the work, but the foundation consulted closely with city officials on selection of the projects. He expects no problems in getting final approval. Perrone expects the foundation's fundraising efforts to pay for all the proposals.

"The Park is a great community," said Perrone. "People are willing to work together to get something done."

The city council has yet to give final approval for all the work, but the foundation consulted closely with city officials on selection of the projects. He expects no problems in getting final approval. Perrone expects the foundation's fundraising efforts to pay for all the proposals.

"The Park is a great community," said Perrone. "People are willing to work together to get something done."

## Park plans on fixing up Patterson Park structure

By Jim Stickford  
Staff Writer

As part of a continuing effort to fix up Patterson Park, the Grosse Pointe Park City Council approved spending \$6,623 to

purchase new windows for a storage building in the park.

"We keep our park maintenance equipment there, things like lawnmowers and tractors,"

said city manager Dale Krajniak. "The building is old, and the windows haven't been replaced at all."

The city has spent a great deal of time and money over the past few years fixing the park up, said Krajniak. This includes the installation of a boardwalk and a playscape. Krajniak recommended that city council replace the storage buildings as a part of the park improvements.

D & G Windows came in with the lowest and winning bid — \$6,623. The next lowest bid was \$6,800 from Glass Block Sales.

In addition to replacing the storage building's windows, Krajniak said the city plans to fix up the rest rooms at the park.

"We need to make the rest

rooms handicap-accessible," said Krajniak. "We also want to put in new stall partitions, new plumbing and a new roof. Our current roof is flat and we want to put in a slanted roof."

A slanted roof should prevent moisture caused by melting snow and rain from leaking into the inside of the rest rooms, Krajniak said. Right now the city's annual maintenance costs for the rest rooms are higher than they should be due to the leaking water. The city has to repaint the building yearly, and repair other water damage.

Krajniak also wants to replace the rest rooms' cement block floor with ceramic tiles.

"It should be very nice once we're finished," said Krajniak. "The council should be voting on bids in the next year."

what to do in a house fire, which they learned through the Grosse Pointe Fire Safety Program's smoke house.



### Thanks

Grosse Pointe Woods public safety officer John Albrecht accepts a \$500 donation on Dec. 9 from Robert Estabrook, right, on behalf of the Grosse Pointe Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 102 and the Grosse Pointe FOP Associates. The money will go toward the purchase of books and guest speaker fees for the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program operated by the Woods police department.

### Mack store burglarized

A delivery man reported a break-in on Dec. 17 at a business in the 18000 block of Mack in Grosse Pointe Woods.

The burglar apparently got in by breaking the glass on the front door. Stolen were the cash register drawer and several pieces of merchandise. Police are investigating.

### Woman flees abduction

Detroit police are investigating a Dec. 17 incident in which a 26-year-old Detroit woman claims a Fraser man in a white truck attempted to abduct her at Mack and East Warren.

Grosse Pointe Woods and Farms police officers became involved in the incident at 3:40 a.m. when a Woods officer saw the woman jump out of the pickup truck as it was passing a gas station at Mack and Moross.

The woman, who was screaming for help, ran to the police car and reported that the man in the truck was trying to abduct her. The Woods officer attempted to approach the truck but the man behind the wheel drove away at a high rate of speed.

A Farms officer, who was alerted by the Woods officer, pursued the truck driver, who eluded police on Moross for a short distance until Detroit police joined the chase and stopped the driver and placed him under arrest.

The woman told police she was waiting for a bus at Mack and East Warren when the Fraser man pulled his truck to the curb and asked her if she wanted a ride. The woman said she declined his offer and began walking away from the truck. She said the man began following her, grabbed her and dragged her into the truck.

She said she tried several times to get out of the moving truck and finally was able to do so at Mack and Moross.

### Handyman had sticky fingers

A Grosse Pointe Farms woman told police that a man she hired to do odd jobs around the house stole money, a car battery and several bottles of liquor from her house.

The Dec. 16 incident began when the handyman asked the woman for the keys to her car so he could use her car to jumpstart his, which had a dead battery.

The woman said she was in a hurry and handed him her key ring which included the keys to her house.

Later that evening, the woman's son discovered his Christmas money missing, along with a circular saw, liquor and the battery to the car the handyman allegedly used to jump start his car. Police are investigating.

### Another Woods shop break-in

Intruders pried open the glass front doors of a shop in

## PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

By Shirley A. McShane

the 20000 block of Mack in Grosse Pointe Woods on Dec. 12 and stole coins and cash from the cash register and damaged a television monitor on a surveillance camera. Police are investigating.

### Tree burns in Park home

A resident who lives in the 15000 block of Windmill Pointe was awakened by a noise on Dec. 9 and when he investigated, found his artificial Christmas tree and window drapes had burst into flames.

The resident dialed 911 but had to leave the house when the smoke grew too thick.

A Grosse Pointe Park police dispatcher was attempting to contact the homeowner because

of the 911 hang-up call when two neighbors called the department to report the house fire.

The City of Grosse Pointe fire department assisted Park firefighters in extinguishing the blaze. Firefighters used a fan to blow the smoke out of the house and put out what remained of the tree. The house sustained heavy smoke damage.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

### Rags ignited Kerby blaze

Paint and turpentine-soaked rags stored in a plastic bag in a basement closet were the cause of a Dec. 7 house fire on Kerby

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## Cutting taxes seen boosting federal deficit

The pre-Christmas bidding war over federal tax cuts that has broken out in Washington between Republicans and Democrats could jeopardize the Clinton administration's attempt to continue trimming the federal deficit.

In Sunday talk shows, spokesmen for both parties insisted that they would pay for the proposed cuts by curtailing federal spending but none of them cited sufficient specific savings to meet that goal.

And on Monday, the president followed up his Thursday night TV speech explaining his proposed tax breaks by suggesting ways to shrink the government but only as a first step in financing his tax cut plans.

However, Clinton and the Democrats are coming late to the bidding war on both tax cuts and trimming government services.

The new GOP majority in Congress has already been busy promoting government downsizing to finance federal tax cuts across the board that party leaders promised in their campaign document, "Contract with America."

# Opinion

Among the critics of tax cuts that would boost deficits were two leaders of the national commission that just reported its inability to agree on any proposals to slow the growth of Social Security, Medicare or other government entitlement programs.

GOP Sen. John Danforth, commission vice-chairman and retiring Missouri senator, was bitter after the commission, unable to find any basis for agreement on its mission, had voted 24-6 to inform the president of its failure.

Danforth expressed deep disappointment because no one seemed to be concerned about the long-term economic effects of "tax-cut proposals now cropping up like mushrooms."

Similar disappointment was expressed by Sen. Bob Kerrey, Nebraska Democrat, who had persuaded Clinton to establish the commission and served as chairman.

"Tax cuts are inconsistent with the spirit of the commission's work," he said, "especially if they make the long-term problem worse."

And yet that is exactly what the bidding for position and votes on the tax-cut issue seems likely to do even as Washington prepares for the early January opening of the new GOP Congress.

A New York Times reporter, David E. Rosenbaum, said last week that Clinton had "reversed course" on his two-year insistence that "reducing the federal deficit was his highest calling."

In effect, Rosenbaum added, the president, by proposing "a variety of tax breaks designed mostly for their political appeal," is "positioning himself ideologically for his next two years in office and his race for re-election."

Yet Clinton presumably proposed this strategy because the public has not bought the warnings about the effects of deficit financing. As Rosenbaum wrote, "the deficit is a corrosive force that must be brought under control to keep it from eating away at the country's economic roots."

Unfortunately, people see little immediate personal effect of even the Clin-

ton administration's record of balancing the budget and assuring deficit reductions for three straight years, an accomplishment unmatched since President Coolidge's day.

So now Clinton now is proposing "a middle-class bill of rights" that provides many benefits, including more investment in education and training for the 21st century.

But, in fact, his proposals are seen as his responses to GOP plans for downsizing the federal government, reducing taxes and government regulation, and presumably helping families at all income levels.

However, both sides have avoided discussing except in general terms the enormous cuts in federal spending and government services that would be necessary to balance the budget if taxes are cut substantially.

By about the year 2010, the escalating cost of entitlements will far exceed revenues, which is why the national commission had sought to halt further cost increases now.

In many respects, both parties now are engaged in the Reaganomics that George Bush appropriately termed "voodoo economics" when he was a candidate in Michigan's 1980 presidential primary.

Unfortunately, that policy apparently now seems to have been endorsed by both parties as the nation's future economic plan.

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## Christmas arouses memories

For many of us, Christmas is a time of mixed emotions and memories combining recollections of past Christmases with thoughts about next Sunday's event.

As we page through old address books seeking current addresses of relatives and old friends, we often come across names of those who have fallen along the way or whose paths have diverged from our own.

For oldsters, the missing form a growing army but, as Peggy Noonan, the former speech writer for Presidents Reagan and Bush, notes in her new book, "some relationships are easy" to maintain.

They are, she went on, "your friends, people who are in your life from a mix of history, accident and affection, who have no utility for you, nor you for them, except this: They hold your hand. And you theirs. And you meet and talk about the circle in the daily round."

In discussing this idea about friendship with another couple, Noonan reported that one of them commented that "we all go through life with a circus troupe walking behind us."

"You meet who you meet and, if you can, you become friends, and as the years pass you look back now and then and see Alice swallowing fire and Johnny juggling names that he drops. It's your troupe. And you gotta be good to your troupe."

As Noonan says, it is true that each of us joins the circus of life. Some participants in our own circus are still with us, but many have left life's battle, and many others are separated by distance or changes in occupation or interests.

In today's society, few of us stay in our early homes or even in our home cities for more than a few years. People often move about the country to face new opportunities or meet new challenges in business or other occupations.

In doing so, they acquire new friends, enjoy new experiences and thrill to new locales but they often pay a price.

They lose contact with family members and old friends; they no longer maintain their interest in public or even private affairs in their old locales; they rarely even see onetime colleagues.

Even as we sadly mark off the old addresses of the missing, we recall the pleasant occasions of the past and something else that is more important.

We remember our respect and affection for them. We owe them much, whether they contributed to our pleasure, happiness and well-being on special occasions or just offered us practical advice about life, living and family duties.

Each year, unfortunately, there are new names among those missing from our own private circus, and we from theirs, as we often learn from an obituary — or an unanswered Christmas card.

## Casinos face new troubles

Two new problems popped up this week for the promoters of new casino gambling sites in Detroit and elsewhere in the state.

One came when The Detroit News unearthed a trail of liens left by Ted Gatzaros and James Papas, the men who have hoped to run a Greektown casino in the near future.

These are the same men who earlier in the year had been reported to be almost a half million dollars in arrears on their property taxes. The News now reports, however, that their tax accounts apparently were brought up to date in September, according to city and county records.

But now The News reports that suppliers have filed more than 20 lawsuits involving more than \$600,000 in disputed claims in circuit and district courts in

Wayne and Macomb counties against the same men in the past four years.

The other possible new hurdle for all state casinos was the announcement by state Sen. Doug Carl of Macomb Township that he would seek a constitutional amendment to ban casino gambling in Michigan.

Since an October public opinion poll showed a majority of voters opposed to any more casinos or casino-style gambling in Michigan cities, Carl's proposal appears to have strong public support.

And with reason. As Carl said, gambling damages "the integrity of the family structure in Michigan."

Our view is that the new revelations about the Greektown promoters also have raised new questions about what their casino would do to other businesses.

ity of increased drinking at night games. In effect, they worried that the installation would endanger property values.

Those favoring the lights argued that night football was a family affair, would give high school students something to do on Friday nights, and would increase attendance.

Residents of the area might do well to monitor the 1995 games to assure crowd control — and make sure some of their other fears do not materialize.



## Letters

### Opportunity Denied

**To the Editor:**  
The HI LITES Committee, with the assistance of the Farms council, denied the Futuring Committee the opportunity to achieve one of its prime missions.

Working with the school board, both Grosse Pointe boosters' clubs, the Neighborhood Club and other

civic organizations in the various Grosse Pointes, it should have been given the opportunity to develop a central, multi-purpose athletic facility for the purpose of providing night football, soccer, baseball and maybe even lacrosse.

Such a program would have unified all residents of the Pointes in a highly worthwhile project that could benefit thousands of

our youngsters from April through November, as opposed to 100 or so at the six events that will be allowed at South.

**Raoul J. Palffy**  
Grosse Pointe Farms  
Vote no

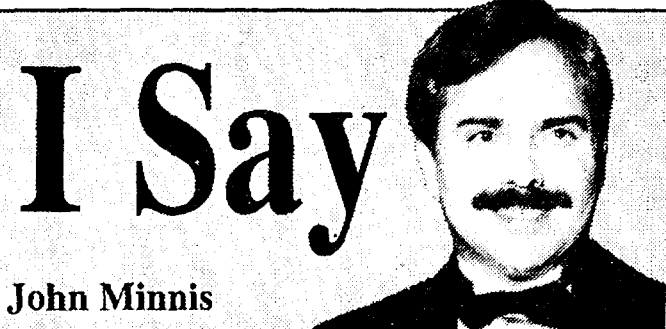
**To the Editor:**  
The article in your Dec. 15 edition by Grosse Pointe school superintendent Edward Shine regarding the 1995 millage and the Grosse Pointe public library is incomprehensible. It is unintelligible.

How can we vote for the millage requested when we feel the school board is sabotaging the library by not turning over to it the \$308 per pupil revenue that was originally intended for the library? A total of \$2.4 million.

If, by law, the school board is not permitted to turn this money directly over to the library then, it should reduce the Feb. 7 millage request by one mill. Subsequently, the voters should be permitted to vote on funds to be used for the system's Strategic Plan for Technology.

At this point we intend to vote against the proposed millage. We hope your readers will join us.

**Mr. and Mrs. John L. King**  
City of Grosse Pointe



John Minnis

### 'Ignoramus' turns the tables

Last week I called a Parcells Middle School teacher an "ignoramus" for spreading rumors and not checking out the facts of a car accident involving four Grosse Pointe girls.

Well, the young teacher paid me a visit after the article appeared. Now I'm the ignoramus. The teacher, who shall remain unnamed, said he was merely trying to teach the students that their decisions, their choices of action, have conse-

quences, and he used the accident as an example of those consequences. He was also well-informed on the facts of the accident.

As is the case with the rumors of the accident, the message I received and reported differed from what actually occurred. Shame on me for falling for it, and my apologies to the teacher, who seemed sincere in his efforts to face teen problems here in the Pointes, where he, too, was once a teen.

# Defense helps Knights triumph

By Chuck Klonke  
Sports Editor

A solid defense can cure a myriad of shooting woes. University Liggett School's basketball team is a perfect example of that. The Knights haven't shot well in most games this season, but they're 3-1 on the strength of their defensive play.

"We haven't shot well except for the opener against Oakland Christian," said coach Chuck Wright, "but our defense has been solid except for the St. Clement game, which is our only loss. We can't expect to win unless we play good defense.

"We've allowed 50 points only once in four games. Defensive intensity is the key."

ULS posted non-league victories against South Lake and Wyandotte Mount Carmel last week.

The Knights led by six points over South Lake after three quarters, but scored 25 points in the final period to win 59-45. Rod Williams and Joe Grant each scored seven points in the fourth quarter.

"We got a few steals and turned them into baskets," Wright said. "The kids just got excited in the fourth quarter."

Grant finished with 14 points, nine rebounds, four steals and four assists. Williams had 13 points and six re-

bounds. Frank Tymrak collected eight points, five rebounds and four assists. Brad Cassin and Chris Corneau each chipped in with eight points.

Cassin sprained an ankle during practice after the South Lake game and missed ULS' 52-35 victory over Mount Carmel, but Calvin Martin and Brad Klein filled in well. Martin finished with seven points and eight rebounds.

# Blue Devils divide two games

By Chuck Klonke  
Sports Editor

Grosse Pointe South's basketball winning streak ended last Friday, but the Blue Devils still have plenty of positives to carry them through the Christmas break.

"We have three victories that we can use as a good stepping stone for the rest of the season," said coach George Petrouleas. "We also have a good teaching tape from the Chippewa Valley game."

An experienced Big Reds squad handed South its first defeat of the season 66-31, but earlier in the week the Blue Devils nipped a good Sterling Heights squad 43-42.

"I can't be critical of our effort in the Chippewa game, but I can be critical of our execution," Petrouleas said. "That was the first game where our inexperience hurt us."

Shooting and rebounding were the two categories where Chippewa Valley had a decided

"Mount Carmel is an aggressive team, but they were somewhat disorganized," Wright said.

ULS led 24-21 at halftime, but pulled away in the second half when the Comets scored only 14 points.

Grant had 11 points and 10 rebounds and missed only one of nine free-throw attempts. Corneau overcame a slow start to finish with 12 points and

Williams pulled down 10 rebounds.

ULS opened the Metro Conference season against Hamtramck last Tuesday. The Knights won't play again until they visit Bloomfield Hills Roper on Friday, Jan. 6.

"We have a lot of seniors and they're showing good leadership on the court," Wright said. "I've been very pleased with them."



Cal's Pizza won its eighth championship in the Neighborhood Club men's volleyball Wednesday night league upper division. In the front row, from left, are Glenn Fuhs, Ken Hanselman and Wally Kiehler. In back, from left, are Dan Wright, Chris Hathorne and Joe Wright.



## Highlights

History repeated this year in the Neighborhood Club men's volleyball Wednesday night upper division as Cal's Pizza won its eighth league championship.

Cal's beat Grosse Pointe Roofing in the first and third games of the best-of-three series.

"We were down by a fairly wide margin in the second

game," said Cal's player-coach Wally Kiehler. "Just as we were gaining momentum, we lost that game 11-9."

Kiehler attributed the team's success to its cohesiveness. With the exception of one new player this year, the squad has been together for more than 10 seasons and the team members know each other's strengths.

## North

From page 16A

free throws by the Tars' 6-foot-6 sophomore center, Juan Pegues, but Winsininski pulled the Norsemen into a tie on two free throws with 1:33 left and broke the deadlock in the final seconds.

The LCN game was similar as North held a double-figure lead, only to let it slip away in the second half.

"We have to bury teams when we have a chance," Stavale said. "We shouldn't put ourselves in such frantic situations at the end of games."

The Anchor Bay victory had a special significance for Stavale.

"That's the first time in three seasons that we've beaten a team with a winning record," he said. "Anchor Bay is a good basketball team and we had to play hard to beat them."

Champine finished with 10 points and Ryan Rouls added eight for the Norsemen. Champine and Mike Aubrey each had three steals, Chris Copus collected four assists and Steve Zachary pulled down seven rebounds.

Pegues had 14 points and nine rebounds for the Tars, who fell to 2-2.

Champine led the way offensively against LCN with 15 points and the sophomore forward also had seven rebounds. Copus had nine points and five assists in a strong performance and Winsininski added eight points and six rebounds.

North opened the season with a 53-42 victory over East Detroit.

The Norsemen led 15-4 after the first quarter and held a 26-13 halftime lead.

Champine had 23 points, five assists and five steals, while Rouls collected 10 points.

"Ryan played a great game. He's like having a coach on the floor," Stavale said.

The Norsemen's second outing of the year was a 55-51 victory over Fraser.

North jumped out to a 16-4 lead early in the second quarter but the Ramblers got hot from three-point range and took a 33-26 halftime lead. Fraser hit four three-point goals and was fouled on another long-range attempt and made all three free throws. North tightened up on defense in the third quarter and held the Ramblers to only three points.

Rouls had 20 points, four steals and five assists. He also made six of eight free throws in the final quarter to help keep the Norsemen ahead. Champine added 15 points and four steals.

"We made 12 of 15 free throws in the fourth quarter," Stavale said. "If you make your layups and free throws and take care of the basketball, you'll win most games."

# Leininger is first once again

By Chuck Klonke  
Sports Editor

Grosse Pointe North wrestling coach Art Roberts knew just how hard Chris Leininger was working last summer.

That's why Roberts isn't surprised at Leininger's success so far this season.

"He's more physically mature this year and he did it all with hard work," Roberts said after Leininger won the 185-pound weight class at the Macomb County Invitational. The North senior also took first a week ago in the Lutheran East tournament.

"All summer he lifted weights and ran six to eight miles a day. He'd come by my house for a water stop, we'd chat for a few minutes and then he'd be on his way, so I knew how hard he was working. And with each tournament win he becomes more confident."

Leininger, who won all his matches by pins at Lutheran East, won his first four Macomb Invitational bouts on falls. He then posted a 6-4 decision over Port Huron's Jim Smedley in the championship round.

"He was trying too hard to pin (Smedley)," Roberts said.

# ULS honors fall athletes at annual awards night

University Liggett School students who participated in fall sports were recognized for their achievements at the school's fall athletic awards night.

Following are the students honored as their team's most valuable and most improved players:

Girls varsity basketball: Juli Grant, most valuable; Eldra Walker, most improved.

Girls junior varsity basketball: Jasmine Beale, most valuable; Karah Knope, most improved.

Varsity football: Matt Corona, most valuable; Mike Rainey, most improved.

Varsity field hockey: Becky Simpson, most valuable; Christine Szarek, most improved.

JV field hockey: Ariadne Lie, most valuable; Naeha Dixit, most improved.

Varsity golf: Tom Delisle, most valuable; Todd Kamin, most improved.

Boys varsity soccer: Chris Adamo and Chris Corneau, most valuable; Steve Verb,

"Chris was hurt a lot last year, but he's in great shape this year. One of the other coaches said, 'He's a man out there.'"

North, which finished 10th in the 38-team field, had three other medalists. Dan Shefferly was fourth at 215 pounds, Bill Pollard was sixth at 126 and Kevin Brandon took seventh at 112.

Shefferly lost twice to a Notre Dame wrestler who handed him his only defeat at Lutheran East.

"I think Dan can beat him if he can just wrestle the way he wants to," Roberts said. "Twice he's been pinned with one second left in a period. Dan's pinned the other eight guys he's wrestled."

Pollard's performance earned him Wrestler of the Week honors at North.

One of his victories was a 12-4 decision over Harper Woods' Tony June, who pinned Pollard last weekend.

"Bill didn't have a very good tournament at Lutheran East, but he wrestled fantastic this weekend," Roberts said. "He had eight matches in two days, so he has to be pretty sore."

Brandon's inexperience was costly at the Macomb meet.

"He had two matches where

he wasn't right on mentally," Roberts said. "But he's only a sophomore and he'll keep getting better."

Roberts was encouraged by the performance of two freshmen. Derek Phillips won three matches at 106 pounds and Eddie Wright posted his first varsity win at 134.

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## Blue Devils bump last year's hockey champs

By Chuck Klonke  
Sports Editor

Reputations don't scare Grosse Pointe South's hockey team.

The Blue Devils took on the defending Class A and Class B-C-D state champions during the span of a week and beat them both, improving their record to

5-0. "Those were two big wins for us," said South coach Bob Bopp. "They might not have all the same players they did last

year, but they're both fine programs. It was a gamble to schedule them back-to-back like that but it paid off."

The Blue Devils don't have a

lot of time to savor their 5-1 victory over Allen Park Cabrini and their 4-3 triumph against Redford Catholic Central. Friday they play Trenton, which is always one of the contenders for a state championship.

"We've lost five in a row to them, but we're getting closer all the time," Bopp said. "I like the way our team is playing now. We have a lot of young players, but the veterans on the team have been great. Even the seniors who aren't the captains are showing good leadership."

Senior Bill Starrs scored three goals to lead South past Cabrini, which won the B-C-D title last winter.

After a scoreless first period, the Monarchs jumped ahead 1-0 in the second period. Starrs tied the game with his first goal at 10:51 of the second period, then tallied a shorthanded goal with less than a minute remaining in the period.

Starrs took a pass from defenseman Josh Prues, who had three assists, and broke in alone on the Cabrini netminder.

"Starrs is very strong on his

skates and is one of our fastest skaters," Bopp said. "That's how he went around the defense on the breakaway."

Geoff Kimmel increased South's lead to 3-1 at 6:01 of the third period and Starrs completed his hat trick 29 seconds later. Sophomore Jason Donohue scored the Blue Devils' final goal.

John Graffius had two assists for South, while Donohue, Jamie Whitehead, Terry Brennan and Kimmel collected one apiece.

"Our top defensive pairing of Justin Braun and Prues controlled the game like I've never seen before," Bopp said. "They move the puck up the ice so well."

South took a 1-0 lead against Catholic Central on defenseman Bill Faber's goal at 4:07 of the first period, but the Shamrocks answered with a pair of power play goals late in the period to lead 2-1.

Graffius tied the game with a shorthanded goal at 9:47 of the second period.

"That was the result of a

See SOUTH, page 18A



It's a hot potato

Players from Chippewa Valley and Grosse Pointe South don't want any part of the bouncing basketball during last week's Macomb Area Conference crossover

game. Chippewa Valley won the game, handing the Blue Devils their first loss in four outings. Details on the game are on page 17A.

Photo by Rosh Sillars

## Hard times are over for North

By Chuck Klonke  
Sports Editor

The hard times appear over for Grosse Pointe North's boys basketball team, but coach Dave Stavale doesn't want the Norsemen to forget them.

"We'll use the chalkboard in the locker room to remind them of things like the summer league at Western Michigan two years ago or the losses to Lake Shore the last two seasons," Stavale said. "Those days are behind us, but we don't want the kids to forget what they've gone through."

Last Friday's 45-43 overtime win against Anchor Bay was North's fourth victory in as many games this season.

A year ago the Norsemen didn't win their fourth game until February.

"We never stopped selling them on what we believed in," said Stavale, who's in his third season as head coach at North. "We never changed anything, even when we were having a hard time winning. You could see it turning around last summer."

"This is the year we have to start thinking about winning every game. I've been pleased with the effort and we're getting better all the time. There was nowhere to go but up after the last two seasons."

What makes the Norsemen's resurgence even more remarkable is that they're doing it without a healthy Dan Vormelker. Vormelker injured his knee during the football season and has to be used sparingly.

"That was a big blow for us, but Mike Aubrey and Mike Melhem have both stepped up and helped temper the loss of Vormelker, who was one of our best players at the end of last season," Stavale said.

Several players have made significant contributions to North's fast start, including Rich Winsininski, who got the winning basket in last week's victories against L'Anse Creuse North and Anchor Bay.

Winsininski took control of the game in the final minutes of regulation and overtime in the Anchor Bay game. He scored all six North points in overtime, including the winning basket on a putback of

Steve Champine's miss with two seconds left.

Winsininski also had two steals in overtime and he scored the tying basket with 1:05 left in regulation.

"He's only about 5-11, but we have to keep him around the basket because he's so explosive getting off the floor," Stavale said. "He has a knack for being around the ball."

Winsininski was ill most of last week, but it didn't show in

his performance as he scored 18 points, had nine rebounds and three assists against Anchor Bay.

He also scored the winning basket on an offensive rebound a couple of days earlier with five seconds remaining in North's 45-43 win over L'Anse Creuse North.

"Champine took the shot and Richard cleaned it off the boards, just like he did in the Anchor Bay game," Stavale

said.

If there's one thing that concerns Stavale, it's the Norsemen's inability to put away an opponent.

North had an 11-point lead late in the first half against Anchor Bay, but let the Tars tie the game at 36, with about 2 1/2 minutes remaining in regulation. Anchor Bay led briefly in overtime after four straight

See NORTH, page 17A

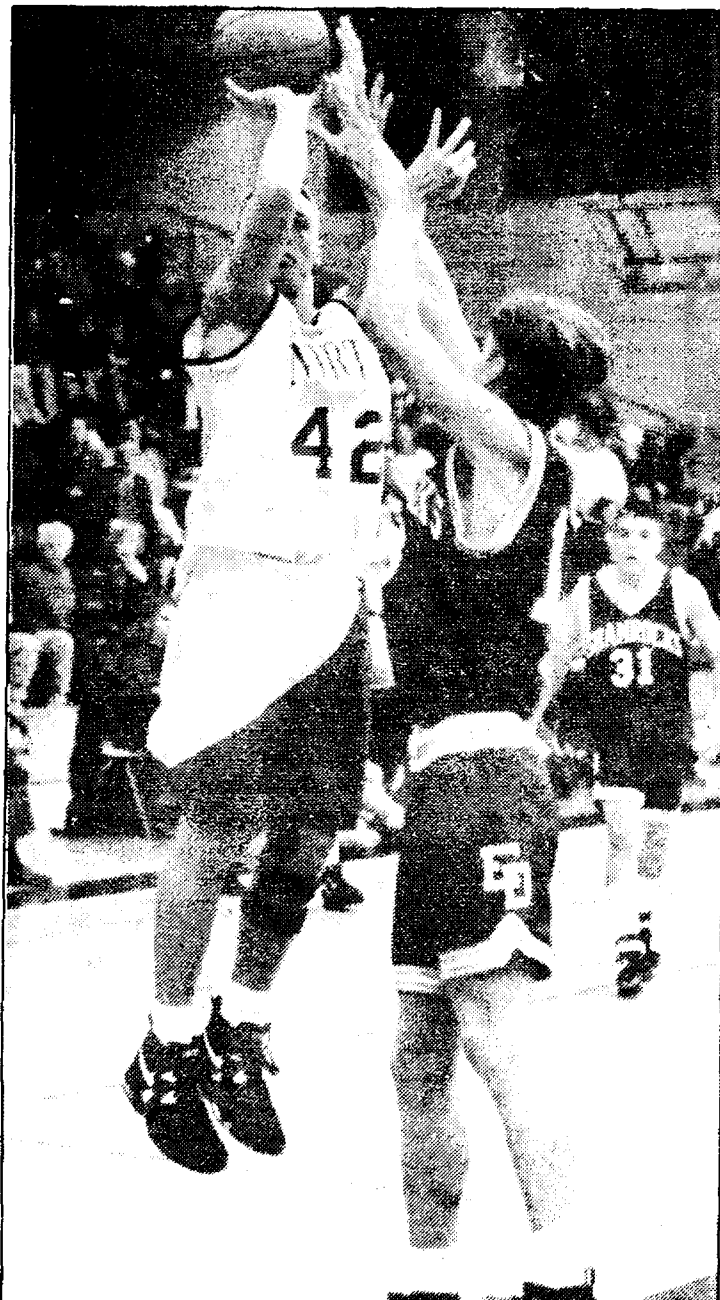


Photo by Peter J. Birken

Grosse Pointe North's Dan Vormelker takes a shot over an East Detroit player during the Norsemen's opening game victory. North has opened the season with four straight victories.

## Knights' spikers win South Lake tourney

Ken Klenk was a bit worried about his first major tournament as head coach of the University Liggett School volleyball team, but the concern wasn't necessary.

The Lady Knights, who beat South Lake in their non-league opener, posted an impressive victory in the 10-team South Lake Invitational.

"That first tournament is always a big test for a new coach," Klenk said. "We've made a lot of changes in the way things had been done and sometimes that can be difficult with a veteran team like we have, but starting off like this should build confidence in what we're doing."

ULS won all eight games in pool play, then met Avondale in the championship match and defeated the Yellow Jackets 16-14, 13-15, 15-7.

The Lady Knights placed

outside hitters Laura Haggarty and Kim Rendz and setter Juli Grant on the all-tournament team. Haggarty had eight ace serves in the finals, while Rendz had seven kills.

In pool play, ULS beat Harper Woods 15-6, 15-8; downed Clintondale, 15-3, 15-5; defeated South Lake 15-10, 15-8; and topped Mount Clemens 15-7, 15-9.

"The girls were prepared mentally and physically," Klenk said. "It was a good tournament."

The Lady Knights opened the season with a 15-7, 12-15, 15-1 victory over South Lake.

Haggarty had seven ace serves and four kills, while Katharine Riddle did a fine defensive job in the back row.

ULS is idle until it competes in the Warren Bethesda tournament on Saturday, Jan. 7.

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## Do early birds get the worms?

By the time this paper hits the newsstands, I'll have about 48 hours to begin and complete my Christmas shopping.

Why start so late, you ask? Let me answer that question by posing another. Why begin so early?

All of the good stuff will be gone if you wait until the last minute, I've been told repeatedly.

"Good stuff" is a subjective term. And since I do not plan to buy heavily-advertised "action figures" or other intensely-marketed playthings youngsters whine about if they don't see them under the tree, there's no need to join the muddled asses (or huddled masses) at the strip mall.

If the "good stuff" is actually gone, it means there are fewer items I have to weed through.

If you wait to the last minute, people will know that you didn't put much thought into your gift, I have been warned.

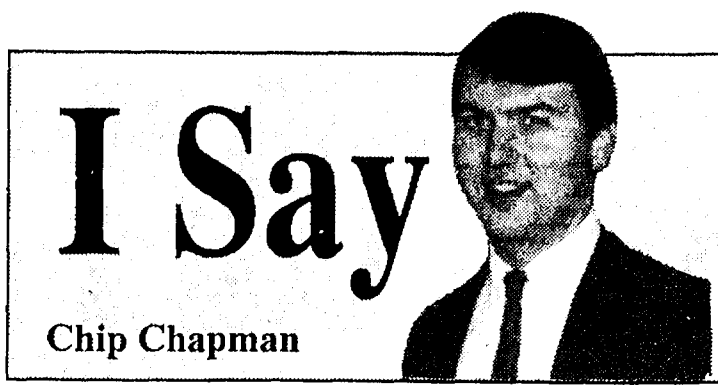
No one ever said the gift-giving thought process couldn't commence before Dec. 22. I'm sure there are many November shoppers who snapped up the first thing they saw on the store shelf.

Many of those gifts didn't have much thought behind them, but darned if they ain't wrapped and under the tree by Thanksgiving.

(Putting up the Christmas tree before Thanksgiving is another story.)

Each year I figure to whom I need to give a gift, decide how much I want to spend, lace up the shoes and I am off.

There are a number of activities that are more enjoyable when done in groups. Christmas shopping is not one of them. Do it alone. You are



# I Say

Chip Chapman

going to run into enough familiar faces that it won't feel like you are all by yourself.

Wear a disguise, if necessary, but at least try not to make eye contact or talk with anyone if you want to complete your shopping before midnight Mass.

When entering a store, act like you know what you are looking for, even if you don't.

Avoid any appearance of bewilderment or indecisiveness; a salesperson, especially one working on commission, will prey upon you like Liz Taylor

on a chicken bone. If approached, ask the salesperson for an item you know their store doesn't carry.

The combination of your feigned disappointment and the salesperson's feeling of inadequacy should give you the space you need to resume your shopping.

The best way to find a gift for that "hard-to-buy-for" person is to shop in a store where you know the salespeople. Better still, shop in a store where the salespeople know the person for whom you are trying to

find a gift.

You get the credit if your gift is a hit and the salesperson takes the blame if it's not.

Upon finding an item you feel will make the perfect gift, approach the checkout area and, if possible, pay cash for the gift. Credit card purchases are time-consuming; you could read the Bible, cover to cover, by the time it takes the card's approval to go through during the Christmas season.

If you must use plastic, then do so. At least your bill won't come until after the new year, unlike the case of November shoppers who charge their purchases. Their bill usually shows up in the mail just in time to ruin Christmas dinner.

Should you have the presents you have just bought gift-wrapped? Sure, if you have nothing better to do than wait around in the store the rest of the day. Store gift-wrapping is another unnecessary, time-consuming practice. It can be done at home if it even needs to be

done at all).

By the time the streets start emptying around 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve, you should be winding up. If not, your options will be limited to 7-11 or Meijer Thrifty Acres.

A gift-getter can always tell that a present has been purchased at one of these stores. Cross Chia Pets and Clappers off your list. Even if you bought them well ahead of time, it will appear that you ran to the store on Christmas morning.

After Christmas Eve dinner, I gather the items I have purchased during the past two days, wrap them in the funny papers and place them near the "stockings hung with care."

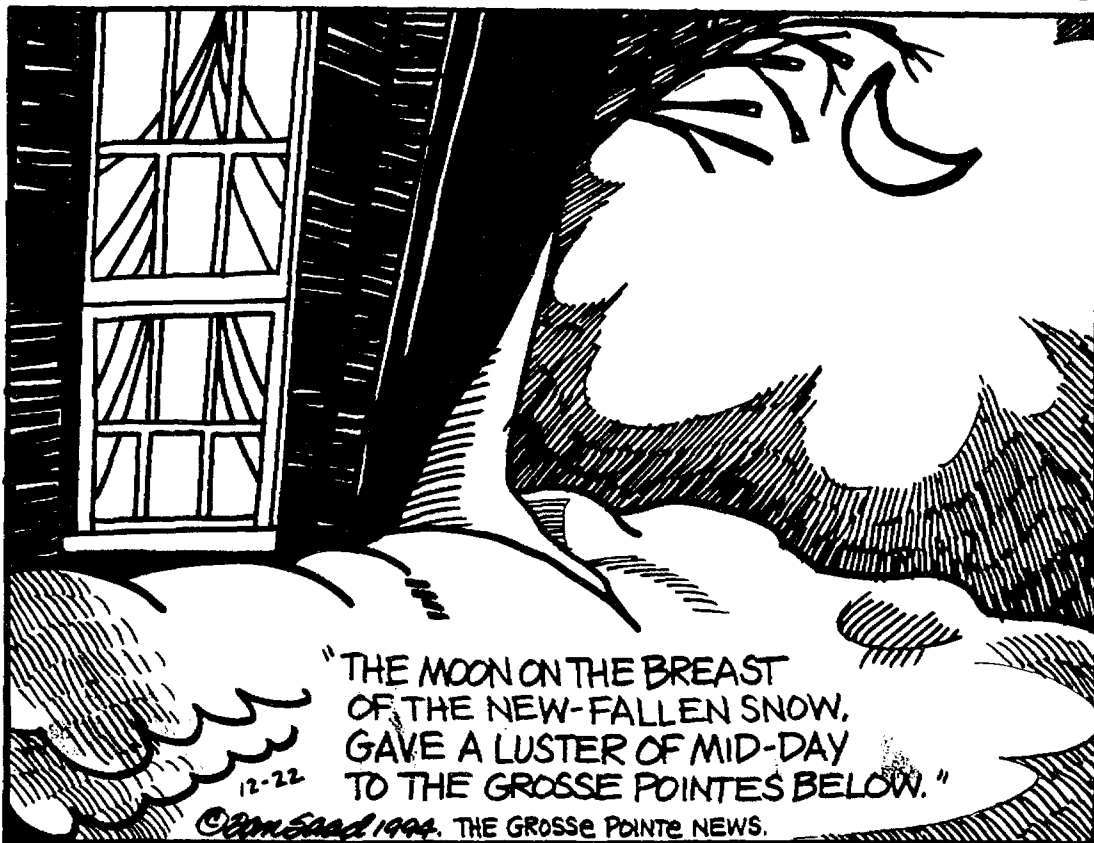
Call it procrastination. Call it what you will. It's a routine I have followed for at least a dozen years.

Does the early bird get the worm? Maybe. But if anyone on my list has asked for worms, waiting until Dec. 24 to buy them ensures they will still be alive on Christmas morning.

## Grosse Pointe News

December 22, 1994, Page 7A

# The Op-Ed Page



"THE MOON ON THE BREAST OF THE NEW-FALLEN SNOW, GAVE A LUSTER OF MID-DAY TO THE GROSSE POINTE BELOW."

12-22  
© Chip Chapman 1994. THE GROSSE POINTE NEWS.

## fyi

### Fancy that!

"You're late, and your dinner is cold. I suppose you were out with those fancy Grosse Pointe people again."

Thus began the very in (and, some say, only slightly fictionalized) murder mystery titled "Fancy Grosse Pointe People" by ex-Pointer J.D. Owens that quickly sold out at local booksellers a few years ago.

Now it looks like a sequel is in the works. Once a Detroit Times food critic and now a retired public relations executive living in Lakeland, Fla., J.D. based the first novel on an intimate and personal cross-section of the Pointe's old hard-drinking, high-living PR and advertising crowd.

It's been called "the kind of stuff you might hear when eavesdropping on the next table at Sparky's" and when FYI contacted the author this month as he sat at his typewriter battling flamingos away from his mai tai, he sounded excited.

J.D. said the bug bit again after many friends and fans kept urging him to write more about the wild and wondrous club set that one used to be able to find everywhere around the Pointes except at their own homes.

Since he was once an officer and director of the Grosse Pointe Hunt Club, rumor has it that not all of J.D.'s former associates are totally pleased with the parallels he drew in the last book.

"I've been thinking of calling this one 'The Revenge of Fancy Grosse Pointe People,'" J.D. chortled. "I really learned a lot about publishing from my first book and this one ought to be a best seller."

In case you want to start next year's holiday gift list early, he's shooting for the fall 1995 book-buying season.



Ken Eatherly

### Penguin power

Forget flamingos: Friends of the Farms' Betty Lardner figured out a better way to celebrate her birthday last Friday — with a lawn full of penguins.

"She likes to travel but she recently passed up a trip to Patagonia, so I decided to have Flamingos by the Yard put a couple of dozen plastic penguins in front of her house," says her friend Joe Kotewicz.

They also put up a sign that says "aged to perfection," says Joe. "She has a wonderful sense of humor but she'll probably kill me when she finds out who did it."

So, which birthday is this for Betty?

That's a Patagonian state secret.

### Tunnel of love

There may have been a time in The Park's past when if you made a funny move on Middlesex you could end up trying out a pair of concrete galoshes on the bottom of Lake St. Clair, but now you're more apt to be invited to a great block party.

Like the progressive dinner hosted a few weekends back by Linda Lawrence and Jonathan and Stephanie Ahlbrand, attended by some 70 neighbors on the tree-lined boulevard below Essex.

And although the conversation included amusing anecdotes about many former Mafia folks who used to live on their street, the sparkling affair was mainly just good neighborly socializing.

"We invite everybody on all three blocks and it brings the neighbors really close together," says Linda. "We always get a wonderful turnout."

It all started about 15 years ago when Linda and Mrs. Dual Martin, now deceased, gave a party for a popular mailman who was retiring.

The pot luck event itself proved so popular that it became an annual holiday tradition, with different people opening their homes for either hors d'oeuvres or dessert. "We had it the first year we moved in," said Kathy Hess.

"I even gave up bowling to-

night to come here," said Bob Bashara. He may have had some extra incentive: A birthday party for him was organized around the dessert table at Linda's house.

Some hosts are repeaters, like Ned and Joann Chalot, who have already volunteered for next year. For them it will also be a Hanukkah party.

No Middlesex get-together would be complete without a story of the old days. When he first moved in about 30 years ago, Ned told of often hearing someone drive down the street after dark, stopping to softly beep his horn at different spots along the route.

"I thought it was some kind of Mafia 'all-clear' signal, until I finally got up enough nerve to peek out one time and saw it was someone in a Volkswagen letting dogs out to run and then picking them up farther down the street," he laughed.

Also there were Peter and Jessie Butler, who the weekend before had their house on the South High Mothers' Club Holiday walk. Originally built by the Zerilli family, it features a secret basement storage room behind a bookcase and a hidden entrance to a tunnel (now sealed off) that ran all the way under the street to another Zerilli family house.

Do you ever think about that tunnel, I asked Jessie. "Yes, sometimes it even pops up when I'm dreaming," she said, and then smiled.

Meanwhile, above ground, the street keeps showing its friendly face. Becky Slimko, Marty Pavlock, Maureen Trybus and Lou Kastely all had good things to say about the parties and the people (they also have an outdoor gathering every summer). "My neighbor even came over this morning and put salt on my driveway," said Laura Blake.

Talking about mysterious house-to-house connections, I'd say a tunnel of neighborly love goes all the way down Middlesex.

If you have an FYI tip or a strange door in your basement, call Ken Eatherly at 822-4091.

## Disconnect: All talk and no action

Everybody's talking about the massive disconnect in American society. Usually that refers to the bit where we want government services, but we don't want to pay for them.

But the disconnect can be a lot of other things. Not long ago, somebody studied attitudes about retirement. The researchers found that everybody wants to retire young, nobody expects Social Security to be of any help, everyone expects to be financially self-reliant, but nobody is saving any money.

Huh? There's a trend toward remaining a virgin until marriage — at the same time that illegitimate births skyrocket. Maybe there's room in America for two opposite trends at the same time.

A disconnect that achieved magazine-cover status was about fat. It's getting to be like the weather: Everybody talks about it, but nobody does anything. In fact, the more we talk about fat grams, the more we eat and the fatter we get. I just read that the size of American bottoms is a joke worldwide.

One of my favorites is the supposed movement to the information highway. Some people are doing things with their computers that science fiction only dreamed of a short time ago. But the rest of us can't program our VCRs or stop our digital clocks from blinking after a power outage.

In a society that offers free education for all, half of us can't read — and demonstrated it when CBS changed channels. What a fuss over very little! Bob can't find the on-ramp to the infobahn, but he didn't have any trouble finding "60 Minutes" last week.

Then there's the universal American assumption that whatever it is, we know how to do it better than other benighted countries. We were going to show the communist countries how to become capitalist, and most of them have turned into banana republics, without bananas.



Nancy Parmenter

If we're so superior, how come that cable company in Southfield put CBS on channel 3, which is prone to interference? No wonder the manager wouldn't comment. (They fixed the mistake the next day.) Hey, I live in the boonies, but my cable company had enough sense to put 62 on 8.

Whoa, I misquoted the Newt Man last week. Thinking I was quoting him, I called myself a "hippie neo-McGovernite." The sentiment still stands, but the words should be "counterculture McGovern-nik." Whew, glad to get that straightened out. Sorry, Newt.

While we're on the subject, the Democrats should stop having a heart attack over Newtish Republican insensitivity and see if there aren't a few worthwhile nuggets in some of the conservative proposals. The

Republican concerns don't come out of thin air — and many liberals actually share those concerns.

Nobody is happy about the breakdown of the family. Nobody likes welfare dependency. Everybody should want to take action to shore up the kids who are the only hope of the future. (Notice I said "should." I'm a bit leery of lip service on this subject from both sides.)

So instead of dumping on orphanages, let's talk about reasonable alternatives. For instance: A group home that offers support to teen mothers and their babies isn't such a bad idea. You can't expect young moms to just turn into Murphy Brown without some support and training. And day care.

Open minds toward discussion of hitherto taboo subjects shouldn't be limited to forlorn Democrats, however. Everyone acted like Aunt Tillie seeing a mouse when then-Surgeon Gen. Joycelyn Elders suggested that society discuss the possibility of legalizing drugs or explaining masturbation.

I like to think we're grown-ups here. Surely these ideas aren't so far out that they can't even be mentioned in polite society. If they are, then bring back the piano shawl to hide those legs, er, limbs.

## Info on renting car seats

The Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) has just created and released the new Michigan Child Car Seat Rental Programs booklet.

The booklet is organized by counties, and lets people know what hospitals or other organizations in the county will loan child car seats. The booklet gives information about what type and how many of each car seat the organization has, as well as how much they cost to rent, and what the length of rental is.

If you are interested in rent-

ing a child safety seat, this booklet is available statewide through the Michigan Substance Abuse and Traffic Safety Information Center. The information center has a variety of free materials available by calling 1-800-626-4636.

It is important to remember that child safety seats help to prevent injuries and save lives. From 1982 through 1992 child safety seats helped to save 2,061 children under the age of 4 from being seriously injured or killed in car crashes.

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## Michigan schools: They're doing more

By Janet R. Beales

In an era of new constraints on government spending, saving money without compromising services will have to be a chief concern of public school administrators everywhere in the future. Citizens are saying loud and clear at the ballot box that they want more bang for the buck.

In Michigan, doing more with less is an imperative. The implementation of Proposal A approved by voters last March means an end to the days of revenue increases for the schools that come in at twice the rate of inflation. Even if a funding shortfall does not occur, Michigan public schools will have to tighten their belts. That doesn't have to be bad news for school children. Innovative strategies and more efficient use of resources can make budgets go further.

What financially hobbles our schools in the first place is not a lack of money, but a lack of money management. When funds are wasted, when state and federal mandates hamstring local education budgets, or when onerous collective bargaining agreements squeeze school finances, even a generous amount of taxpayer money evaporates by the time it reaches the classroom.

School bureaucracy is a notorious consumer of education dollars. Between 1960 and 1984, the number of non-classroom instructional personnel in America's public school classrooms grew by 400 percent, nearly seven times the rate of growth of actual classroom teachers. Michigan has the 10th highest administrator-to-teacher ratio in the country. Twenty percent of Michigan school superintendents earn over \$100,000 annually.

Of the many ways to tackle the problem of money manage-

ment in the schools, the most promising may be competitive contracting. Increasingly, public schools are turning to the private sector for services such as busing, building maintenance and cafeteria service. Some schools are even contracting for instruction and management.

Examples are already easy to find in Michigan. The Pontiac schools are saving \$500,000 a year since the district sold its bus fleet in 1993 and contracted with a private firm to transport its students. The Mount Clemens school district in Macomb County is turning management of one of its schools over to the private, for-profit Edison Project. The nation's largest school cafeteria services firm handles meals for students in at least two dozen Michigan districts.

Contracting — when it's done after study and with care — can provide a much-needed infusion of expertise, accountability, and cost effectiveness to

schools. Central administrative tasks such as payroll, insurance, and worker's compensation, are often reduced when a contractor handles management and operations.

In the area of cost control, savings through competitive contracting in other states are extensive and well-documented. Several studies comparing in-house and contracted cleaning services found savings to be as low as 13 percent and as high as 50 percent for contracted service. In a KPMG Peat Marwick survey of school districts in Washington and Oregon, more than 60 percent of the districts reported lower costs after they hired private firms.

Contracting enables schools to become customers in a market of competing providers. If schools don't like the price or service quality of one provider, they can take their business elsewhere. Because a provider must attract and satisfy customers to stay in business, the incentive to do well fosters a

degree of accountability not usually present when the public sector does everything itself. As part of the process, schools must carefully evaluate which services they should provide themselves and which they should buy. Too many districts have yet to undertake the serious study of their costs and give open-minded consideration to contracting opportunities.

With increasing frequency in other states, public schools are putting the competitive efficiencies of the marketplace to work. For-profit companies and non-profit organizations are being hired by public schools to prepare and serve meals, clean the buildings, drive the buses, teach the students, and even manage entire school districts.

Thinking about doing the same is no longer a luxury in Michigan. It's a necessity.

Janet R. Beales is an adjunct scholar with the Mackinac Center for Public Policy, a research and educational organization headquartered in Midland.

## Chill out this Christmas

So, you feel like Mother Nature pulled another fast one and your dreams of a white Christmas have just melted away? You were just getting into the spirit of the season when your snowman turned into a puddle and you needed an umbrella to get to your garage.

Lighten up, this is Michigan and we should be immune to weather changes. Like it or not, Dec. 25 will occur even if you haven't purchased that last present or baked that last cookie. So what! That ain't what it's all about and we are just plain silly the way we tear around and exhaust ourselves in preparation for a celebration that has sadly paled in its true meaning.

Christmas should be a celebration, a joyous occasion, a day of reverence and thanksgiving. If we choose to exchange greetings and gifts as a part of that celebration, that's wonderful, but it should not be the entire focus of the holiday.

My advice to you is to "take five," turn off all the lights in the house except for the decorative ones, turn on some Christmas music and sit quietly and listen. Close your eyes, take a few deep breaths and savor your blessings. Treat yourself to some solitude. Take the time to attend a concert, share a meal with friends, take a basket of food and toys to a needy family, attend church services and listen carefully to a child or a senior citizen. They have much to teach us. This is a time to exchange our tales of joy, not woe.

Christmas is not intended to be a frantic time. We have turned it inside out and upside down. Does it truly matter if there is white stuff on the ground? This is a wonderful time for joining with family and friends, for caring and sharing and enjoying our quiet time, too.

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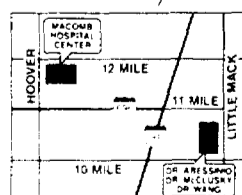
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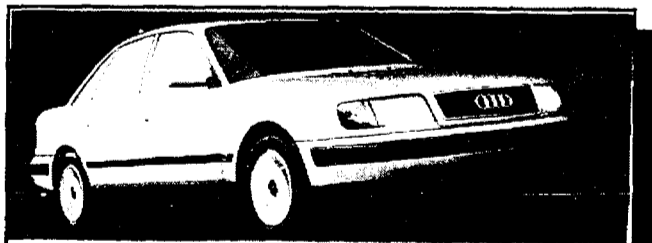


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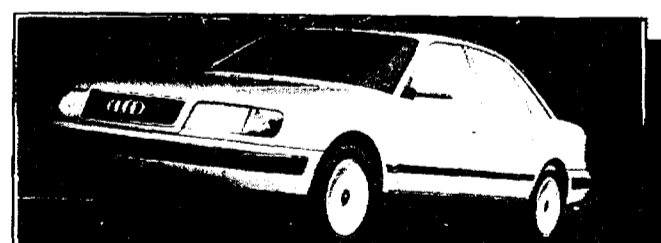


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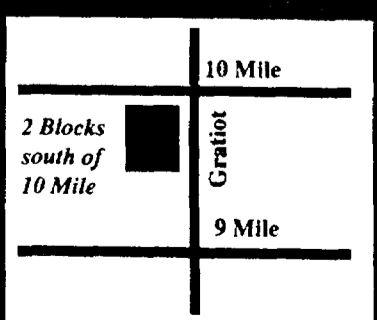
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## MEAP scores out; now's time to find out what they mean and don't mean

By Shirley A. McShane  
Staff Writer

Now that the scores are out, it's time for the schools to interpret this year's Michigan Educational Assessment Program results.

Most newspapers print extensive lists that allow readers to "compare" scores from one school district to the next, but that's not what educators do with the numbers, said Marjorie Parsons, assistant superintendent for curriculum and evaluation for the Grosse Pointe schools.

"These kinds of things are very hard to analyze because they're just pages of numbers," Parsons said during a presentation to the school board on Dec. 12. "The charts are not a very precise way of describing a dis-

trict's results. Some of these districts test fewer than 50 students. It is hardly a fair comparison to do this with some districts."

As an example, Parsons said, the school district gathered all the MEAP results for fourth-, seventh- and 10th-grade reading and math tests and the scores on the fifth-, eighth- and 12th-grade science tests from every school district in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Livingston and Washtenaw counties and entered them into a computer program that ranked the scores from highest to lowest.

In their analysis, for example, Grosse Pointe fourth graders ranked seventh on the math exam with 84.7 percent of the students passing the test.

"There is no significant difference between the top-ranking districts," Parsons said. "Differences are in tenths of points."

Ranking just above Grosse Pointe were West Bloomfield, Hartland and Birmingham fourth-graders, all with 86 percent of the students passing; Bloomfield Hills and Troy students passed with 87 percent; and Lamphere came out at the top with 98 percent passing the math exam.

Under the MEAP standard, a difference is not considered significant unless it shows an increase or decrease of more than 5 percent.

The purpose of the MEAP is to provide information to the state board of education, Legis-

lature, local school districts, teachers and parents on a student's status and progress in the area of essential skills education.

Results are used by educators as instructional tools and should not be used as a scorecard, advises the Michigan state board of education.

The Michigan state school board states in a handbook on the MEAP that the test results are used to:

- Determine curriculum development.
- Evaluate educational programs, if the objectives tested are relevant to the program. MEAP test results can be used to reflect student needs and to spot weaknesses in areas where students are tested.

Results should not be used to:

- Evaluate teachers. The Michigan state school board says that the skills and knowledge tested by the MEAP are acquired by students over time. Fourth-graders, for example, are being tested on what they have learned from kindergarten through third grade.
- Compare or rank school districts. The state school board advises that judgments should not be made regarding the overall quality of education students receive based on MEAP scores alone. Many other factors must be considered along with test scores.
- "Sell" a neighborhood based on the school district's MEAP scores. Newspapers and real estate agencies should not oversimplify the scores. The overall success and reputation of a school district is based on commitment of the school staff, the course offerings and attitudes of parents and students.

look for trends and analyzes each question to see how many students got it wrong and why.

A fifth-grade science question, for example, asked students to select which statement demonstrates how plants need light energy from the sun to grow. Fifty percent of the students got the correct answer: A plant that was placed in a dark room and was watered did not grow.

Forty-one percent of the students picked: A plant placed outside the school grew 6 centimeters. A similar plant placed on the window sill grew 6 centimeters also.

"Here is an example that shows that almost half of this test was a reading test," Parsons said. "Forty one percent just didn't read it right. They knew it had something to do with light. When we go back and analyze every one of the answers and see how the kids did, then we know how to deal with the issue and how to teach the kids how to read test questions."

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## Schools must tally scores by gender

By Shirley A. McShane  
Staff Writer

Are boys and girls really treated differently in the classroom?

A 1992 study conducted by the American Association of University Women suggested that girls were shortchanged in the education system because, among other things, teachers paid more attention to and called on boys more often.

Concern about the findings of the AAUW study prompted the Legislature to see if this is happening in Michigan classrooms.

As part of the school finance reform package passed by the Legislature in December 1993 and the AAUW's Initiative for Educational Equity, school districts are required to separate Michigan Educational Assessment Program test results by gender to determine if there is any significant gap in the scores.

Administrators in the Grosse Pointe Public School System have separated the scores, as dictated by Public Acts 335 and 339, and are waiting for specific instructions on what to do with the results.

"The Legislature requires the school district to provide equitable education based on gender," said Marjorie Parsons, assistant superintendent for curriculum and evaluation. "We're still waiting to get the final word from the state on what is considered acceptable in terms of differences in test scores."

Parsons said the school district "unofficially" was told that the range should not exceed 15 percent. If the scores vary by more than 15 percent, a school district may face a penalty, she said.

In the 1994 test, it appears as there are few significant differences in test scores based on gender, Parsons said.

On the reading and math tests administered to fourth, seventh and 10th graders, the Grosse Pointe schools detected no significant difference in scores based on gender.

On the science exam, given to fifth, eighth and 11th graders, fifth-grade boys scored 8.4 percent higher than girls and 11th-grade boys scored 5.6 percent higher than girls. There was no difference on the eighth-grade level, Parsons said.

"MEAP scores are a good gauge of how boys and girls are learning," Parsons said. "They're enrolled in the same classes, with the same teachers using the same textbooks. A lot of it boils down to societal expectations. In general, we don't want to stereotype, but boys traditionally have done better than girls in math and science and girls have done better in reading."

Parsons suggested the tracking of gender differences will help teachers and administrators look at current practices. Do teachers call on boys more than girls? Does society place a greater expectation on boys to excel? How do we reward students who succeed?

"As it turns out, we do not have much of a problem here," she said. "But we have yet to receive the official guidelines to measure these numbers."



## They know math

Grosse Pointe North students Jonathan Opdyke, Arul Thirumoorthi, Meredith Chan, John Gleason and Heather Hollidge have qualified for the second part of the 38th annual Michigan mathematics prize competition sponsored by the Michigan section of the Mathematical Association of America. They qualified by placing in the top 7 percent among about 14,000 participants in an exam taken Oct. 12. The second part of the exam will be administered this month. The top 100 students will be awarded scholarships ranging from \$400 to \$2,200.

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**NOTICE TO BIDDERS — REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT OF GARAGE DOORS:** In order to conform to state and federal OSHA and ADA regulations, sealed proposals are invited for removal and replacement of garage doors at the Department of Public Works, 1200 Parkway, Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan, and will be received by the City of Grosse Pointe Woods, 20025 Mack Plaza, Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan, 48236, at the office of the City Clerk until Thursday, January 5, 1995, at 3:00 p.m. local time, at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Drawings and specifications may be examined at the office of the City Clerk and may be obtained from the Department of Public Works, 1200 Parkway, Grosse Pointe Woods (telephone: 343-2460). The city reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive irregularities in bidding, or to accept any bid it may deem best.

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A lot more than people realize goes into the holiday fruitcake

There are a lot of jokes around about fruitcake and some of them are pretty awful (the jokes, not the fruitcake). But the fact remains that fruitcake is a staple of holiday parties. But when one thinks about the ingredients in it and of its tradition, a whole world of exotic times and places opens up.

Fruitcake originated in the middle ages when fruits and flowers were dried and candied for winter use in a society that had never imagined refrigerators or freezers. Many of these cakes were processed in stillrooms and kitchens, but the more exotic varieties were imported and were very expensive.

Dates and figs were carried by caravan across the desert and brought to Europe in sailing ships and were in great demand. The date palm was one of the most ancient symbolic forms

of the tree-of-life in the near east.

Among the Egyptians it was symbolic of the tree-of-the-year because it produced a new branch every month.

It was the sacred emblem of Judea after the exodus from Egypt. In 538 B.C. the Romans took the palm leaf as their emblem of triumph over Judea, but in 29 A.D. the Christians adopted it as the symbol of the triumph of Christ. In the time of the Catacombs, the palm became the emblem of martyrs and in the middle east to this day, the date palm is a principal source of wealth.

Figs are native to Asia Minor and were the most widely revered trees of antiquity. The ancient Hebrews used the fig as the symbol of peace and abundance. The Muslims called the fig tree the Tree of

Garden Shed By Ellen Probert

Heaven and it was considered to have intelligence. In central Africa, many people believe that the spirits of their ancestors inhabit fig trees. In China the tree is associated with Buddha. Medicinal uses for figs are listed in the Bible.

Hazelnuts figure in Greek mythology and are used today to represent communication and commerce. They were used in marriage customs by the ancient Romans and in Celtic legend the hazel is the

tree of wisdom. In Nordic legend it represents Thor, the god of war and thunder, and it was used in medieval times as a wand carried by heralds-at-arms to indicate knowledge and wisdom.

Dowsing rods, or forked branches of hazel, are used to this day to locate water and minerals under the earth. Hazelnuts are still prized for their flavor and are used in baking fruitcakes.

Citron, the first citrus fruit grown in Europe, was introduced there by Alexander the Great at around 300 B. C. Modern methods of candying, or crystallizing, are essentially the same as those used in the middle ages and it is still an important fruitcake ingredient.

When explorers first ventured beyond Europe during the Renaissance, the now-familiar pineapple was

one of the oddities discovered in the New World and quickly became popular, especially in the crystallized form.

Pineapples also began at that time to be exported from Africa, Madagascar, China, Java and the Philippines. They were not grown in Europe until the 17th century, when they became the symbol for hospitality and were so represented on signs and in the decorative arts.

Spices are important in making fruitcake and have long had an exotic reputation. Ginger originated in Asia and by 300 B. C. was well established in China, Maylaya, Indonesia and India. Arab traders carried this spice westward and it was known by the Greeks and Romans. It reached England before William the Conqueror did. At that time

the price of a pound of ginger was one sheep. A Canton merchant is credited with inventing the method of crystallizing ginger that is still used today. Its oldest use was in medicine and in some places in China it is still used in this way, as are cloves and nutmeg.

Cloves are the unopened buds of a tree grown only in the Molucca Islands and in Zanzibar. Nutmeg is the fruit of the same tree and alspice is made of the bark of the tree, grown in this area and known appropriately as the Spice Islands.

Wines, rum and brandy are often used to flavor fruitcakes and these, too, have their own glamorous history. It is no wonder fruitcakes are served at holiday parties and that we associate them with festive moments and occasions.

There are several ways to avoid damaging trees during new construction

Q. How do I find out whether I need to spread lime on my vegetable garden site?

A. A soil test is an inexpensive, accurate way of telling whether your soil needs lime and how much you need to add. It will also tell you what nutrients in your soil are inadequate and how much to add. Take six to 10 small trowel samples

about 4 to 6 inches deep from your plot, mix it in a bucket and bring two cups of the mix to the Cooperative Extension Service office. It is sent to Michigan State University for a charge of \$8.

Q. How can I avoid damaging the trees on the lot where I'm building a new house?

A. Try to avoid any

change in grade level around trees you are going to save. Any more than 2 to 3 inches of soil around the base of the tree upsets the air and water content of the soil, changes the functions of soil organisms and adversely affects tree roots. If fill is needed around trees, provide rock or tile drainage at the original ground level before

fill is added. If the fill needs to be more than 1 foot deep, plan to build tree wells before excavation begins. Lowering of grade levels should begin as far away from the trees as possible to avoid injuring the roots. Maintain the original grade level near the trunk of the tree. To avoid mechanical damage to tree bark by heavy equipment,

construct sturdy bumpers around trees with lumber or old tires. Prune low-hanging limbs so they don't get torn off.

This information is for educational purposes only, reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply endorsement by the Cooperative Extension Service or bias against those

not mentioned. Sandra Goeddeke-Richards is the home horticulturist for the Macomb County Cooperative Extension Service. Write her in care of Macomb Co. CES 21885 Dunham Rd., Clinton Township, Mich. 48036, or call the Master Gardener Hotline at (810) 469-5063 Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Antiques

Q. I have some small molded soldiers in German military uniforms. They are made of a plaster-like material. They are not lead. The family said that they came from Germany before war broke out in 1945. Are they collectible?

A. Elastolin and Lineol toys were made in Germany from the 1930s. Model toy soldiers were made of a plaster composition until 1939. After that, plastic was used until 1945. The figures pictured Nazi soldiers and political figures.

The printed name is stamped on the base. If the word "Germany" is also on the base, the soldiers were made after 1935. If the name is in script, the soldiers were made after 1936.

Collectors of memorabilia from World War II are buying the small soldiers. An Elastolin figure of Hermann Goering, Hitler's deputy, recently sold for \$200.

Q. How was a butter pat used? When was it used?

A. The butter pat is a small dish, measuring about 2 1/4 to 4 1/2 inches in diameter. It was kept on the table near the top of the fork. An individual serving of butter was placed on the plate.

The dishes were used as early as the 1850s. They were very much in style until the 1920s. Restaurants used them until the 1970s, but few are now seen.

The pats, sometimes called chips or individual butter plates, were made in many shapes. Some were round, square, leaf-shaped or even fan-shaped. Some matched the dinner service, but many were decorated with special pictures of animals, birds, flowers or people. Most butter pats were made of china. Some were also made of sterling silver, silver plate or pewter.

The paperback edition of the best-selling "Know Your Antiques" is available. An illustrated guide for beginning collectors, it includes bibliography and listings of specialized clubs and publications. Send \$14.95 plus \$2 postage to: Know Your Antiques, Box 22900, Beachwood, Ohio 44122.

Real Estate advertisement for John C. Costa, Realtor of The Month. It features several property listings with photos and 'SOLD' signs, and a contact information for The Jim Saros Agency, Inc. at (313) 886-9030, 17108 Mack, Grosse Pointe, MI.

# Bird feeders are the best way to see feathered friends who stayed north

Each year, summer comes and goes in the blink of an eye. Before we know it, the long, lazy days of the season are over and autumn is upon us, bringing shorter days and colder weather. Although the change in weather has little effect on most of us humans, the approaching fall and winter seasons can be rough on our back yard birds.

An often dramatic decrease in the supply of natural foods and fewer daylight hours make it difficult for birds to find sources of food. We need not worry, though, for we can help our feathered friends and benefit at the same time by providing them with food and partaking in the entertaining and relaxing hobby of bird watching.

Actually, fall is the best time to start feeding birds, because they have yet to settle down in their winter territories and have not fixed their habits of searching for food. If you set up a bird feeder in early autumn and keep it filled with food you can attract many wintering birds that will become accustomed to visiting before cold weather actually begins. Then, as the fall turns into winter, those birds will

usually elect to remain where they know there's an ample supply of tasty, accessible food. Though generally not difficult to make from scratch or assemble from a kit, even a simple bird feeder can be a time-consuming project. Ornate, preassembled and large-scale bird feeders can be bought, but they are costly and more likely to be used by longtime bird watchers.

An easier, less expensive option is to purchase a ready-to-use, prefilled, plastic bird feeder, such as the Easy Feeder by Easy Gardener, from a nearby garden center or hardware store. The Easy Feeder comes filled with a well-balanced, nutritious selection of bird food, including 50 percent black oiled sunflower seeds, millet and milo, so that it lures the widest variety of song birds. An Easy Feeder is also a good choice because it dispenses the seed mix only when needed. This protects the seed from the damaging effects of rain and snow, or contamination by bird waste. And, when empty, the durable feeder can be refilled at minimal cost or put out with the recyclables.

Once you've assembled or

purchased a bird feeder, scout your yard for the best locations for hanging it. Keep in mind that a feeder should be hung in areas that are out of reach of for squirrels, mice and cats. The feeder should also be placed in areas of abundant natural shelter, such as trees and hedges. This is especially important in the fall and winter months for the shrubbery serves as protection against the cold winds and snowstorms of the seasons. Easy Gardener recommends hanging two or more Easy Feeders in order to attract an increased number of birds.

After you have the feeder in place, you may want to consider setting up a bird bath in your yard. This will serve as an additional attraction for bird visitors, providing them with a place to stop for a quick drink or to clean their feathers. One thing to remember while maintaining a bird bath during the fall and winter months is that it must be kept thawed.

One way to do this is by adding hot water to the bath every so often. If you set up your bird bath on a window shelf, you won't need to

venture out in unbearably cold weather. Although this method will suffice, a more convenient, and relatively inexpensive way to keep the bath thawed is by investing in a waterproof electrical heater. This is a good choice because it keeps water at a certain, even temperature. These heaters can be purchased at aquarium supply stores for about \$100.

Now that you have turned your yard into a bird haven for the upcoming seasons, sit back, relax and watch for the many wintering birds that will visit your family's yard. The average garden attracts approximately 15 species, but the number varies, depending on where you live. Common winter visitors include cardinals, jays, mockingbirds, chickadees, nuthatches and mourning doves.

Easy Gardener suggests buying a bird watching guide that will help you identify your new guests. Whatever you decide, you can now enjoy the entertaining, educational and rewarding pastime of bird watching, all the while knowing that you have done something to contribute to the preservation of our fine feathered friends.



HOME & GARDEN FEATURES

Winter bird watching made easy. Hanging a bird feeder, such as the Easy Feeder from Easy Gardener, in your yard will encourage birds to visit throughout the winter, providing hours of bird watching entertainment.

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## Bach and blue; directing is music to your ears

You hear it at every holiday gathering. Some whisper it in your ear. And yet others announce it to the world as they reach for their last chocolate chip cookie. "This is it. I'm going to start dieting in the new year."

So, here is how to make it stick. Try this combination. A little Bach and a splash of blue. Yes, you can fight the battle of the bulge with a radio and a paint brush. A study done by John Hopkins University found that dining to soothing music is calming and slows down your eating pattern. This, in combination with surrounding yourself with cool blues, purples or greens is tranquilizing and less conducive to overeating.

Warm colors, such as reds,



Virginia Ficarra  
The Color Wizard

and yellows and oranges, can visually stimulate the nervous system. Haven't you noticed these colors in the

signs and on the walls of fast food places? Lively music can do the same...and we tend to keep up the beat, inhaling our food.

So, if one of your New Year's resolutions includes better eating habits remember it's as easy as "Bach and Blue." Get into new eating habits. Here is what to do.

1. Paint your kitchen or dining area in a cool color.
2. Select dishes in Wedgewood blue, mint green or purple.
3. Use these colors for your placemats, napkins, linens and even your centerpieces.
4. Indulge yourself. Purchase some new tapes. Play some relaxing music

with your meals.

Well, on second thought, here's another idea. If you'd rather not bother with the above...crank up the beat in your red kitchen and do some fast dancing for a couple of hours and burn off those calories. Smile!

Watch for Virginia on the TV2 Eyewitness News, Tuesdays mornings for more colorful home improvement and decorating tips. Her book, *Your Home Color Guide, Making Color Work* is available at all Damman Hardware Stores and Calico Corners.

For home consultations, workshops and speaker engagements contact The Color Wizard at P.O. Box 104, St. Clair Shores, Michigan 48080. 1-313-885-8772.

## Builders Association to forecast 1995 outlook

What southeastern Michigan and the nation's home building industry can expect in 1995 will be forecast at a special meeting for local builders being held by the Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan (BASM) on Wednesday, Jan. 11.

Dave Seiders, chief economist of the National Association of Home Builders, will discuss the various economic factors expected to affect the industry nationally in 1995, and offer suggestions for preparing business to capitalize on the

projected economy. This will be the fourth consecutive year that he has addressed the annual forecast meeting.

BASM 1995 officers will also be introduced and inducted at this meeting. The 1995 officers will present the results of the 1994 home

building season in southeastern Michigan and forecast new home starts for 1995.

The event will be held at the Northfield Hilton Hotel, 5500 Crooks (at I-75) in Troy at 11 a.m. Call (810) 737-4477 for information.

Wishing you and yours a glorious holiday season from all of us at

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# REAL ESTATE RESOURCE

### I. GROSSE POINTE SHORES

Address	Bedroom/Bath	Description	Price	Phone
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No Listings

### II. GROSSE POINTE WOODS

Address	Bedroom/Bath	Description	Price	Phone
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No Listings

### III. GROSSE POINTE FARMS

Address	Bedroom/Bath	Description	Price	Phone
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No Listings

### IV. GROSSE POINTE CITY

Address	Bedroom/Bath	Description	Price	Phone
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389 Lincoln Road	3/3	Cape Cod, charm galore, unique library, newer kit. R.G. Edgar & Associates. Priced Reduced.	Call	886-6010
897-899 Rivard	4/2	Brick 5/5 with extra rm. in each unit. R.G. Edgar & Associates.	\$168,500	886-6010
800 Notre Dame	3/1.5	Den, family room. Perfect!! R.G. Edgar & Associates	\$165,000	886-6010
4 Lakeside Court	4/3.5	Enjoy gorgeous lake views from this New England style home. Call Tappan.	\$365,000	884-6200

### V. GROSSE POINTE PARK

Address	Bedroom/Bath	Description	Price	Phone
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919 Barrington	6/2	Open Sun. 2-4:30 Over 3,400 sq. ft. old English charm. Ginny Petzold, Coldwell Banker Schweitzer Real Estate	\$219,500	886-5800
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### VI. DETROIT

Address	Bedroom/Bath	Description	Price	Phone
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19961 McCormick	3/1	Completely updated w/ too many amenities to mention all! C/A, NFP with Italian marble hearth, new carpet, paint, landscaping. Finished bsmt. w/ full bath. Great location! Must see! Stieber Realty.	Call	810-775-4900
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### VII. HARPER WOODS

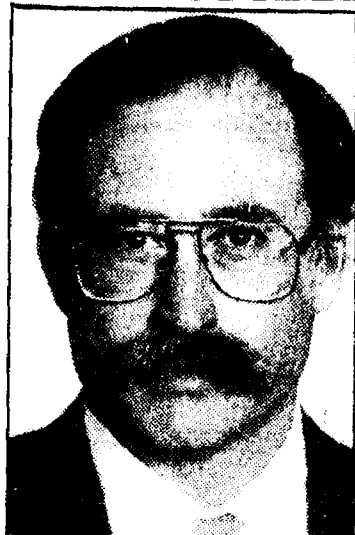
Address	Bedroom/Bath	Description	Price	Phone
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No Listings

### VII. ST. CLAIR SHORES

Address	Bedroom/Bath	Description	Price	Phone
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22803 Overlake	2/1.5	Townhouse condo, 1 car att. gar. Evie Douglass, CENTURY 21 Town & Country	\$60,000	810-286-6000
1055 Woodbridge	2/2	Sharp dorset unit. Stieber Realty Co.	Call	810-775-4900



**Dr. William Robert Opdyke**

A memorial service was held Tuesday, Dec. 20, at the Chas. Verheyden Inc. Funeral Home in Grosse Pointe Park for Dr. William Robert Opdyke, 43, who died of a heart attack Friday, Dec. 16, 1994, at Harper Hospital in Detroit.

Born in Detroit, Dr. Opdyke was a resident of Grosse Pointe Woods.

A 1969 graduate of Grosse Pointe South High School, he pursued a lifelong dream of becoming a dentist. He graduated from the University of Michigan Dental School in 1977.

Dr. Opdyke returned to Grosse Pointe Woods to establish a private practice, where he was a dedicated dentist for 17 years.

He was active in the Little League and the Boy Scouts. Dr. Opdyke was an integral member of the local chapter of Ducks Unlimited, dedicated to the preservation of wetlands. He took pride in the accomplishments of his children and attended every school activity in which they were involved.

Dr. Opdyke was active in the Detroit District Dental Society and the JJP Dental Group. He was also an avid outdoorsman, spending his free time hunting, fishing and camping. Over the years, Civil War history was his pastime and he became quite an expert on the subject.

Most people will remember Dr. Opdyke for his strong ideals, straightforward honesty and commitment to his family.

He is survived by his wife, Karen Opdyke; a daughter, Rebecca Opdyke; a son, Jonathan Opdyke; his parents, Robert and Rita Opdyke; and three sisters, Janet Opdyke, Marilyn Bannon and Christine Sofranko.

Memorial contributions may be made in his honor to Ducks Unlimited, in care of Fred Hingst, 12473 Tuscola Road, Clio, Mich. 48420 or to the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites Inc., P.O. Box 1862, Fredericksburg, Va. 22402.

**Virginia Helen Cooper**

Virginia Helen Cooper, a longtime resident of Grosse Pointe Shores, died Tuesday, Dec. 13, 1994, at Cottage Hospital in Grosse Pointe Farms. She was 86.

Born in Hartville, Mo., Mrs. Cooper came to Detroit after high school graduation to attend Detroit Teachers College (now Wayne State University). She taught in the Detroit public school system at the Trowbridge and Marcy schools. She enjoyed many years of gatherings with her Marcy co-workers, both when the school was in operation and after it closed.

In her early sixties, Mrs. Cooper suffered the first of a series of strokes which deprived her of a completely normal life. However, after her rehabilitation program left her with little hope of a complete recovery, she did again master the ability to write, knit and perform many other tasks far beyond the level expected by professionals in the rehabilitation field.

She was an excellent example of achieving beyond the levels expected by others.

Mrs. Cooper is survived by two daughters, Joan Bock and Carol Cooper; and a son, James Cooper. She was predeceased by her husband, Dr. James B. Cooper.

A private burial service was held at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Detroit.

Arrangements were made by the A.H. Peters Funeral Home in Grosse Pointe Woods.

**Randy Rousseau**

Services were held Monday, Nov. 21, at the A.H. Peters Funeral Home in Grosse Pointe Woods for Randy Rousseau, 44, who died Friday, Nov. 18, 1994, at his home in Grosse Pointe Woods.

Born in Grosse Pointe Farms, Mr. Rousseau was diagnosed at age 7 with Duchennes muscular dystrophy, a neuromuscular disease that would eventually affect his entire body. He and his family were told that he probably would not live past his teens.

Forced to leave Montith Elementary School when he was first diagnosed, Mr. Rousseau continued his education at home, eventually earning a high school diploma.

On July 21, 1993, Mr. Rousseau graduated with a degree in computer programming from the State Technical Institute and Rehabilitation Center near Plainview.

"The applause we received at the graduation was really overwhelming," said his mother Elinor in a 1993 interview with the Grosse Pointe News. "Randy received a standing ovation; it was all very emotional."

This accomplishment was remarkable, considering Mr. Rousseau's disease required him to spend 16 hours a day in an "iron lung" and he had no use of his limbs except for a tiny movement of his left toe and little finger. Sitting upright at a computer was out of the question.

"I have always been a goal-setter," he said in the same 1993 interview. "I enjoy constantly pushing the boundaries of what I am able to do."

In an essay for an English class, Mr. Rousseau wrote: "As a willing participant in life, I have always accepted the challenges offered and have been grateful for the opportunities given to me. In fact, I have always felt advantaged just being here."

Although the future is uncertain, I'm confident that society, with its ever-increasing awareness of the handicapped, will someday provide the technology and the understanding necessary to include the handicapped in the mainstream of society."

Mr. Rousseau is survived by his mother, Elinor. He was predeceased by his father, Tom.

Interment is at White Chapel Cemetery in Troy.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Muscular Dystrophy Association.



**James Weitzmann**

Services will be held at 11 a.m. today, Dec. 22, at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church in Grosse Pointe Farms for James Weitzmann, 64, who died Monday, Dec. 19, 1994, at the St. John-Bon Secours Nursing Home in Detroit.

Born in the City of Grosse Pointe, Mr. Weitzmann was a graduate of Denby high school and a 1952 graduate of Michigan State College. He was a varsity letterman in swimming at both schools and a member of Sigma Chi fraternity in college.

He was vice president of First Federal Corp.'s municipal department.

Mr. Weitzmann was a member of Bayview Yacht Club, the Port Huron-to-Mackinac Race Committee and the Old Boat, House and Grounds committee.

He was an avid sailor, skier and family man.

Mr. Weitzmann is survived by his wife, Trudy Weitzmann; a daughter, Janice Weitzmann; and a son, James J. Weitzmann.

Interment is at Evergreen Cemetery in Detroit.

Arrangements were made by the Chas. Verheyden Inc. Funeral Home in Grosse Pointe Park.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Assistance League of Grosse Pointe or to the Michigan Cancer Society.

**William Addison (Chip) Vaughan Jr.**

William Addison (Chip) Vaughan Jr., of Alexandria, Va., died Friday, Nov. 25, 1994, in an automobile accident in Virginia. He was 32.

Born in Lynchburg, Va., Mr. Vaughan was a former resident of Grosse Pointe Farms.

He was an active member of the Christ Church Grosse Pointe Boys and Mens choirs from 1972-80, during which

time he was a treble soloist and a leader and head chorister in 1976-77. He was a 1980 graduate of University Liggett School.

Mr. Vaughan was a computer systems analyst for the Hauger Orthopedic Corp.

He is survived by his mother, Lind Groseclose Vaughan Wright; his stepfather, William Marshall Wright; two sisters, Mary Hawthorne Vaughan and Sara Cox Vaughan; and his paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. William C. Vaughan. He was predeceased by his father, William A. Vaughan.

The family can be reached through his mother at 80 Tappin Dr., Hilton Head, S.C. 29926.

Memorial contributions may be made to the music fund at Christ Church Grosse Pointe.



**Alastair Carlyle**

into the information age and developing shared ATM networks for the bank. He retired as executive vice president in 1992, the year Manufacturers merged with Comerica Inc.

"Alastair Carlyle was a valued colleague for many years and was instrumental in building our company into a successful organization," said Michael

T. Monahan, president of Comerica.

Mr. Carlyle began his banking career in Scotland and served in the Royal Air Force while earning a degree at the Scottish College of Commerce.

At age 21, he immigrated with his family to the United States, settling in the Detroit area. Mr. Carlyle joined Manufacturers as a clerk in 1957. He became vice president in 1968, was named senior vice president in 1973 and rose to executive vice president in charge of the bank's operations in 1980.

Mr. Carlyle was an avid golfer.

He is survived by his wife, Flora Jean Carlyle; two sons, Eric and Alan Carlyle; his parents, Alexander and Annie Carlyle; and a sister, Patricia Johnstone. He was predeceased by a daughter, Laurie.

Interment is at Cadillac Memorial Gardens East in Mount Clemens.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society or to the Michigan Cancer Foundation.

**More obituaries, page 14A**

**Martha E. Schilke**

Services were held Wednesday, Dec. 21, at the A.H. Peters Funeral Home in Grosse Pointe Woods for Martha E. Schilke, 80, who died Sunday, Dec. 18, 1994, at Cottage Hospital in Detroit.

Born in Detroit, Mrs. Schilke was a resident of Grosse Pointe Shores.

She worked as an office manager for Barr Aviation for 32 years.

Mrs. Schilke enjoyed gardening and needlepoint, winning a blue ribbon in the latter at the Michigan State Fair.

She is survived by her husband, William Schilke; a sister, Elsie Kitter; and a brother, Daniel Frederick Neuman.

Interment is at White Chapel Cemetery in Troy.

**Alastair Carlyle**

Services were held Saturday, Dec. 17, at the Chas. Verheyden Inc. Funeral Home in Grosse Pointe Park for Alastair Carlyle, 58, who died Wednesday, Dec. 14, 1994, at Cottage Hospital in Grosse Pointe Farms.

Born in Glasgow, Scotland, Mr. Carlyle was a resident of Grosse Pointe Farms.

He worked for Manufacturers National Bank for 35 years.

An expert in computer systems, Mr. Carlyle is credited with guiding Manufacturers

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## Weather outside is frightful? Be productive indoors

Winter is fun for those who enjoy the slopes, skinning like graceful swans on skates over the ice or sitting on a frozen river waiting for a fish to bite.

For others, winter fun is a contradiction in terms.

They find no enjoyment in cold weather and all that it brings — dark, frosty mornings, icy streets and cars that won't start. New fallen snow is pretty, but it loses its charm when it has to be shoveled. A silver moon, surrounded with twinkling crystal stars against a velvet blue night sky, is lovely to look at — if you're standing behind glass reinforced with storm windows. Instead of a weekend in northern Michigan to see nature in full-dress winter splendor, just give them an airline ticket to Florida.

The first gust of a north

wind sends them scurrying inside, only to venture out when absolutely necessary, such as to go to work, replenish the food supply or to keep social engagements.

When watching winter sports on television, there are times they dream of such daring deeds as going cross-country skiing, putting on a pair of skates or taking a walk in some new-fallen snow.

Hardier souls might even contemplate a more daring adventure — getting behind a dogsled in Alaska, braving a course that winds along a historic gold rush trail from Anchorage to Nome, breathing freezing cold air, chancing unpredictable storms and encounters with moose. They see themselves mushing alone on a trackless, shelterless place behind durable dogs, descendants



## Prime Time

By Marian Trainor

of animals that came to North America with the natives thousands of years ago. Now there is a real Walter Mitty day-dream.

If it sounds too extreme, it could be modified. No need to go all the way to Alaska to indulge in make-believe do-and-dare feats.

How about a make-believe trip to Aspen, Colo., for some real downhill skiing? The 3,000-foot altitude takes some getting used to, but after a day you will be ready for the spec-

tacular Big Birm, a mile-wide and mile-long course, or the grand chute of Spar Gulch.

That is snowmobile country too. Snowmobiles invade white wonderlands driven by riders who are fascinated by snow-capes few men have ever seen.

There's more to this scenario. You might choose to sail across frozen lakes in a fiberglass boat in Linconia, N.D., to toboggan in the Adirondacks down a mile-long track.

All of these activities are exciting and fun to ponder but

not to do.

Dyed in the wool winter-haters would never think of doing more than thinking about it. They actively resist the lure of picture postcard pretty scenes of ski lodges nestled in snow-covered slopes looking out on lakes of frozen crystal.

When tempted, they remind themselves how far away their feet are from their body's central heating system and how much chilblains can hurt. They think of their poor old noses sticking out there, turning redder and dripping as Jack Frost keeps nipping away. Ears are vulnerable, too, with their little blood vessels turning to little veins of ice.

"Nonsense," you say. "What about bundling up in wool, down and thermal wear?" For the dedicated armchair winter recluse, these are but temporary safeguards and only for those with souls of Eskimos. Winter hermits make use of them, but do so indoors.

All the projects that have

been put aside so as to enjoy summer's munificence can now be completed.

Now is the time to read that book that has decorated the coffee table since June, to finish the afghan begun last winter, to call a friend who is often remembered in thoughts but never in deeds.

It may not be the most fun, but now is the time to clean closets, paint, wallpaper and clean the basement. Winter was made for such dreaded tasks. Winter is also a time to score points as Mr. Fix-it. There is no better way for him to endear himself to the household than to repair all those little things that have gone wrong and have been called to his attention.

So while others shiver in the snow and cold, we Pollys-sit-by-the-Fire will spend time perusing garden catalogs and getting ready for better things.

## Obituaries

### Florence Bliss

A Mass was said on Tuesday, Dec. 20, at St. Philomena Church in Detroit for Florence Bliss, 79, who died Thursday, Dec. 15, 1994, at Bon Secours Hospital in the City of Grosse Pointe.

Born in Grosse Pointe Woods, Mrs. Bliss was a resident of the City of Grosse Pointe.

She worked at Grosse Pointe Valet.

Mrs. Bliss is survived by a daughter, Beverly Piemont; two sons, James and Herman Bliss; and seven grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband, Sevrn Bliss.

Interment is at Mount Olivet Cemetery in Detroit.

Arrangements were made by the Chas. Verheyden Inc. Funeral Home in Grosse Pointe Park.



Florence Bliss

Memorial contributions may be made to the charity of the donor's choice.

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**SALSA FRESCA \$1.99**  
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1 LB 1/4'S \$1.29

**IMPERIAL MARGARINE**  
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**PROGRESSO MARINATED ARTICHOKE HEARTS**  
6 Oz **\$1.29**

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1 Liter **88¢**

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BITE SIZE CRACKERS 4 1/2 Oz Box

# Pointe Counter Points

By  
kathleen stevenson



Wishes a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our friends and customers... 20148 Mack at Oxford, 886-7424.

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## Jacobson's Calendar

	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	

### December 22nd (Thursday)

Every Thursday evening Jacobson's serves a delicious dinner buffet (all you can eat) from 4:30 - 7:30. Adults \$9.95 and children (10 years and under) \$5.95. In our St. Clair Room Restaurant.

### "Holiday Hours"

For your shopping convenience... Thursday & Friday 9:30 - 9:00 Saturday - Christmas Eve 9:30 - 5:00

### December 25th (Sunday)

We will be closed Christmas Day. "MERRY CHRISTMAS" Have a safe and happy holiday

### December 26th (Monday)

We will be back to normal hours 9:30 - 6:00

### December 31st (Saturday)

We will close at 5:00 p.m. on New Years Eve.

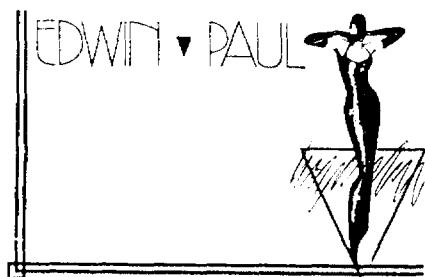
### January 1st (Sunday)

We will be closed New Years Day. "HAPPY NEW YEAR"



Elegance  
for sizes  
14-26

Merry Christmas and Warmest wishes to you and your family. Lisa and her staff wishes all — health, prosperity and joy... We will close Christmas Eve at 3:00 p.m. We'll be closed Christmas Day and Monday - re-open on Tuesday, December 27th at 10:00 a.m.... at 19583 Mack Avenue, Grosse Pointe Woods, 882-3130.



The Edwin Paul Salon wishes a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our clients. Thank You for helping us make this our best year ever! Gift certificates are still available at 20327 Mack Avenue, Grosse Pointe Woods, 885-9001.

## Sports On The Hill

Perfect Christmas gifts... Grosse Pointe T-shirts, sweatshirts, pillows and boxes...Grosse Pointe North & South merchandise...plus - see our 40% Off sale on ladies fleece warm-ups...at 92 Kercheval On-The-Hill, 343-9064.



A very merry season to all! After Christmas sale starting on Monday December 26th, from 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. on selected items with up to 50% OFF...come visit both our stores... 85 Kercheval On-The-Hill, 884-4422 and 97 Kercheval On-The-Hill, 886-4341.



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Last minute shopping? We have the solutions wrapped and ready to go. Give a gift basket that will remind your friends and relatives of you all year. Gift wrapped birdfeeders make the perfect gift for all ages from children to seniors. Prices start at \$6.95. Give the gift of nature... at 20926 Mack Avenue, Grosse Pointe Woods, 881-1410.

## Pointe Fashion's

Merry Christmas to all... There is still time to purchase your New Year's Eve outfit... hurry in at... 23022 Mack Avenue, (across from S.C.S. Post Office) 774-1850.

For all your last minute shopping...



## Wildflower Antiques

5 Kercheval On-The-Hill. Open Monday - Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. till Christmas, 882-0164.



Spread a little cheer... Christmas Day is almost here! Glad tidings to you... Don't miss our SALE — All Christmas merchandise on sale through January 5th, '95... at 397 Fisher Road, Grosse Pointe, 882-9110.



grosse pointe florists, inc.  
Growers of Fine Flowers

Wishing everyone a joyous Holiday... Merry Christmas and Happy New Year... from the staff at Grosse Pointe Florists... at 174 Kerby Road, Grosse Pointe Farms, 885-3000.

## Josef's French Pastry Shop

Wishes you a very Merry Christmas. Also — Would like to thank everyone for the wonderful loyal patronage and may you all have a Happy and Healthy New Year!... 21150 Mack Avenue, 881-5710.



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## KISKA JEWELERS

There is no time more fitting to say Thank You and to wish you a Happy Holiday Season and a New Year of health, happiness and prosperity from KISKA JEWELERS... Only three days left to receive 25% OFF on all our in-stock merchandise...Hurry in... at 63 Kercheval On-The-Hill, 885-5755.



## YOUR CHILD'S HEALTH

Your child's dental health is important to you! You can see a "video tour" of your child's mouth with state of the art technology at Robert C. Gorski D.D.S. Dental Services...Or call for a complimentary brochure with information about your child's dental health 886-7890, Vernier at I-94.



Merry Christmas... for all your baking needs this Holiday... pumpkin pie, fruit and cream pies. A wide variety of dinner rolls and bread, breakfast and dessert pastries, delicious cakes and tortes, yule logs, Holiday stollen and gourmet coffees... at 16844 Kercheval Place in-the-Village, 882-1932.

## edmund t. AHEE jewelry co.

With Christmas just a couple days away, let edmund t. Ahee jewelers assist you in making your Holiday purchases. Let their sales professionals assist you in making the perfect selection. Why not see for yourself what is believed to be the largest collection of fine jewelry in the midwest. Gift certificates available...at 20139 Mack Avenue at Oxford, Grosse Pointe Woods. Open Thursday and Friday 10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. Saturday (Christmas Eve) 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m., 886-4600.



## HARVEY'S Compleat Traveler

Michigan Humaine Society, Anti-Cruelty Association and Bouvier Rescue thank you for your support and wish you a joyous holiday...at 345 Fisher, Grosse Pointe Farms, 881-0200.



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Last minute Christmas shopping is going on at Connie's & Steve's Place. Large selection of Holiday dresses and variety of outfits for boys and girls. We now carry Stride Rite...Come shop with us — Receive 20% - 40% off on winter outer garments — use our layaway... We are the largest independent Children's Clothing Store in Michigan... at 23200 Greater Mack Avenue, one block south of 9 Mile Road, 777-8020.



Merry Christmas from all of us at the LEAGUE SHOP... Mark your calendar for Monday, December 26th — All our Christmas merchandise will be 50% OFF...Open 9:30 - 5:30... The League Shop will be closed from Friday, December 30th through Monday, January 2nd... at 72 Kercheval, On-The-Hill, 882-6880.



Receive FREE crown molding for any room with the purchase of a new kitchen now through January 31st '95...Why put it off (many G.P. references). It's easy — 881-4663.



Holiday Special... Receive a haircut and style with Jenna and a one hour massage for \$40.00 (a \$10.00 savings) now through December 31st. (First time clients only) at 15229 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Park, 822-8080.



Ed Maliszewski  
Carpeting

Wishing you a Very Merry Christmas... from all of us at Maliszewski... at 21435 Mack Avenue, 776-5510.

For More Pointe Counter Points  
See Page 3B

To advertise in this column  
call Kathleen Stevenson  
at 343-5582 by 2:00 p.m. Fridays

# Features

December 22, 1994  
Grosse Pointe News

Section B

Churches.....4B  
Entertainment.....9B

## L'Alliance Francaise de Grosse Pointe offers French-flavored events a la carte

By Margie Reins Smith  
Feature Editor

The purpose of L'Alliance Francaise de Grosse Pointe is simple: the promotion of the French language and culture.

Voila. You don't have to speak French. But some members do.

It's not necessary to have been born in France. But some members were.

The first Alliance Francaise met in Paris after the Franco-Prussian War, said Warren Wilkinson, the Grosse Pointe chapter's first president. The French lost the war and the group was organized to recoup the French people's image.

The Grosse Pointe group broke off from L'Alliance Francaise de Detroit in 1970, Wilkinson said. The popular new group attracted 80 people to its first event, an evening garden party at the home of Wilkinson and his wife, Mireille.

The Grosse Pointe chapter will celebrate its 25th anniversary in 1995.

Non-members should not be intimidated by the group, said Aphie Roumell, current president.

"We have more members who do

not speak French than those who do. We have more non-French members than natives of France."

L'Alliance Francaise de Grosse Pointe has a mailing list of 250 people. About 150 to 175 are active. Ages range from 21 to 100 and many live in Grosse Pointe or on the east side of Detroit, although residence is not a membership requirement.

Monthly meetings feature a French theme — a speaker, a musical program, poetry reading, a French movie, a dinner, a wine tasting or a social get-together.

For those who want to speak French — or listen to French being spoken — five different conversation groups meet once or twice a month at members' homes.

"Groups often read a book together," said Mary McNair, an alliance member for 12 years and editor of the newsletter. "A facilitator leads the discussion, in French."

Roumell joined the alliance in 1982. She taught French in local high schools. She currently teaches French through Grosse Pointe Community Education.

McNair joined because she wanted to speak French and was enrolled in Roumell's French class.

Guillemette Bachrach was born in LeMans and grew up speaking the French language.

"I married a GI and came to the United States in 1946 — first to Des Moines, then to Grosse Pointe in 1952."

Bachrach taught French conversation classes at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial. She moved back to Paris, but attends L'Alliance Francaise meetings when she's visiting Grosse Pointe.

Wilkinson said he joined because his grandfather spoke French and his wife, Mireille, is French.

McNair and Bachrach remembered the variety of programs put on by the alliance over the years — Poisson d'Avril parties patterned after the French custom of celebrating the Day of the Fish (April Fool's Day); a crazy hat party; a 1972 reception for the French ambassador; dinner parties featuring French cuisine; a Martinique-Soiree; Repas de Noel, an annual gourmet potluck Christmas party; Beaujolais Nouveau parties; and the Distribution des Prix, an annual event to honor French scholars.

"We raise money to carry on the French tradition of recognizing students, their teachers and parents," McNair said. "The Distribution des Prix gives local high school students recognition for excellence in French language studies. We present awards — certificates and reference books. It's usually a luncheon to which the students, their parents and teachers are invited."

The Alliance Francaise de Grosse Pointe also donates videos and books about France and the French language to the Grosse



L'Alliance Francaise de Grosse Pointe will celebrate its 25th anniversary next year. The non-profit, non-political American organization promotes French culture and language.

From left, are Aphie Roumell, president; Guillemette Bachrach; Warren Wilkinson, first president of the Grosse Pointe chapter; and Mary McNair.

*'We have more members who do not speak French than those who do. We have more non-French members than natives of France.'*

Aphie Roumell  
President, L'Alliance Francaise de Grosse Pointe

*'American tourists who come to Paris now will be pleased to see they are treated with kindness.'*

Guillemette Bachrach  
Past president, L'Alliance Francaise de Grosse Pointe

Pointe library.

McNair said the Alliance helps promote good feelings about French people and the French language. Years ago, she said, the French were stereotyped as being snobbish and intolerant to tourists who struggled to speak their language.

"American tourists who come to Paris now will be pleased to see they are treated with kindness," Bachrach said. "It's better than it was."

"Joining the Alliance Francaise is a good way to enter the French scene, French culture and language," Roumell said.

"The group is friendly," McNair said.

Both emphasized that membership or attendance at meetings is open to anyone. Dues categories range from \$25 annually to \$300 for life.

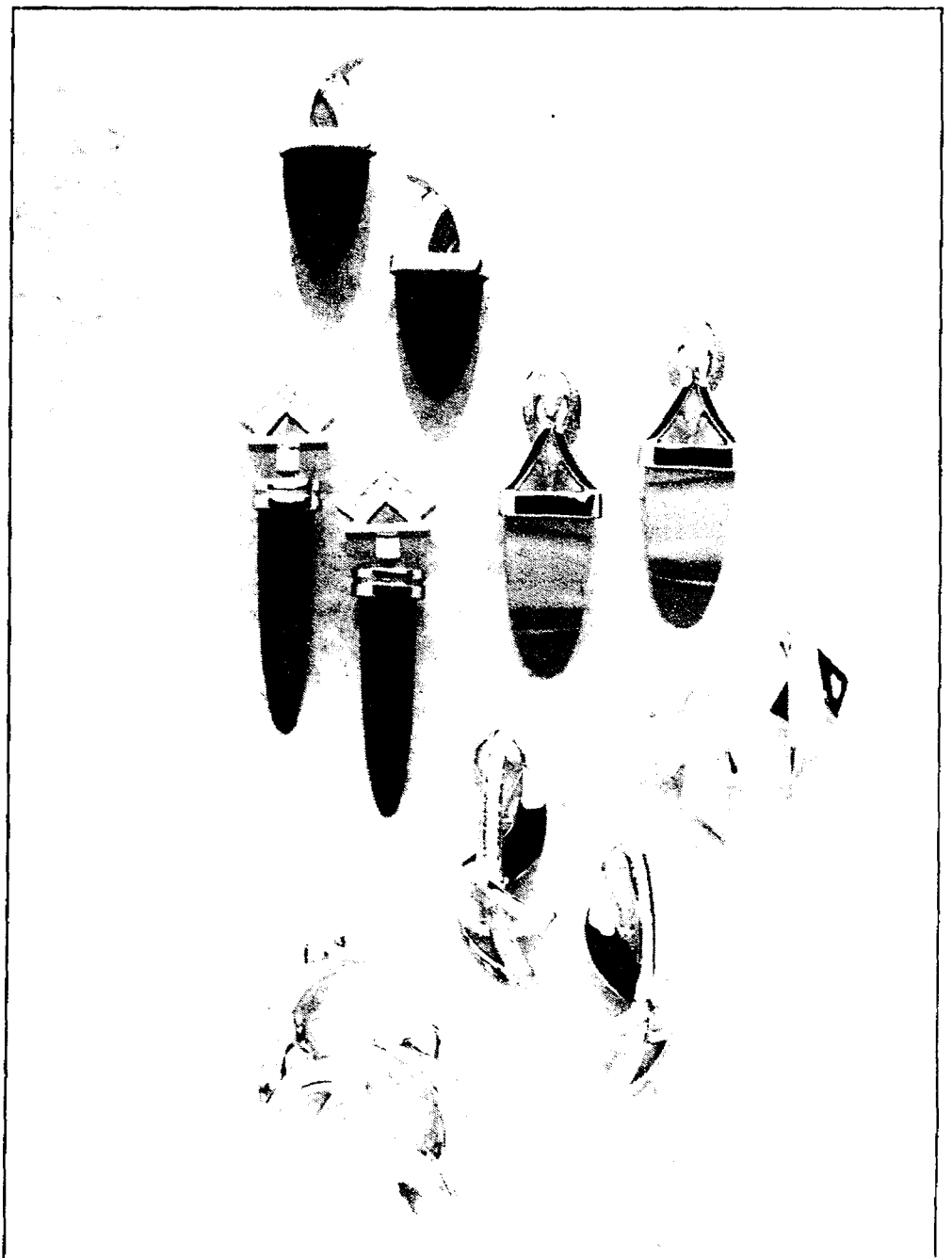
For more information about L'Alliance Francaise de Grosse Pointe, call Roumell at 881-8844.

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## Project HOPE

The Women's Committee for Project HOPE held a luncheon at the Birmingham Athletic Club Dec. 7 to benefit the children of Poland. Chairman of the benefit was Grosse Pointer Lynne Dewey. Dr. Marjorie Peebles Meyers was the honorary chairman. Grosse Pointers who attended were, from left: Evelyn Harrison, Ann Simpson, Gloria Clark, Anne Simons, Dewey, Marge Slezak and Julieta Wood. Not shown are Sally Mackintosh and Edith Smith.

## State Questers aid preservation project of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society



Rita Brennan, past president of the International Organization of the Questers and representative for the six Grosse Pointe chapters, presented a check for \$4,200 to Gail Stroh, president of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society, for help with the society's restoration of the historic Provençal Weir House, 376 Kercheval.

From left, are Brennan; Stroh; Marilee Rinke, immediate past president of the Michigan State Organization of The Questers; and Al Moran, co-chairman of the society's Provençal-Weir House restoration committee.

The Michigan organization of The Questers has contributed \$4,200 to the Grosse Pointe Historical Society to aid in the restoration of the society's headquarters, the Provençal-Weir House at 376 Kercheval in Grosse Pointe Farms.

The Questers, an international study organization, was founded in Pennsylvania 50 years ago. The purpose of the non-profit organization is to foster an appreciation of antiques and to encourage the preservation of historic landmarks.

Questers has 900 active chapters and 16,000 members in the United States and Canada.

Michigan has 1,600 members in its 92 chapters. Six of the state's chapters are located in Grosse Pointe — Fox Creek No. 216, Grand Marais No. 215, Grosse Pointe No. 147, Pear Tree No. 193, Pettipointe No. 243 and Windmill Pointe No. 385.

In addition to its donation to the Provençal-Weir House project, the Michigan Questers have contributed to restoration projects such as the Hackley House in Muskegon, the Selinsky-Greene House in St. Clair Shores, the City Opera House in Traverse City, the Moross House in Detroit and Mill Race Village in Northville.

Questers also support tuition grants for Columbia University graduate students pursuing the university's historical preservation and restoration program. The Questers' national headquarters is in Philadelphia.

## Weddings



Mr. and Mrs. Timothy John Dolan

### White-Dolan

Shelley Chancellor White, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond R. White Jr. of the City of Grosse Pointe, married Timothy John Dolan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene F. Dolan of Cincinnati, on Sept. 10, 1994, at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church.

The Rev. V. Bruce Rigdon and Monsignor Francis X. Canfield officiated at the 5 p.m. ceremony, which was followed by a reception at the Grosse Pointe Club.

The bride wore her mother's wedding gown of candlelight peau de soie, featuring an empire bodice of Alencon lace embroidered with seed pearls. She carried an English bouquet of roses and wildflowers.

The maid of honor was the bride's sister, Lindley White of Chicago.

Bridesmaids were Cynthia Daniel of Muskegon; Mary Beth Samuelson and Beverley Foster, both of New York City; Kathleen Pressler of Houston; and Eugenia Priddy and Cassie Spencer, both of Chicago.

Attendants wore short silk delphinium blue dresses and carried bouquets of pink roses and English wildflowers.

The best man was David Van Buren of Atlanta.

Groomsmen were Daryl Bible, Scott Heiser and Jerome James, all of Cincinnati; John Danis of Dayton, Ohio; Steven Duca of Rancho Santa Fe, Calif.; and Sam Samuelson of New York City.

The bride's mother wore a short cream-colored suit of Alencon lace.

The groom's mother wore a tea-length mauve dress of silk crepe.

The reader was David Tralka of Naperville, Ill.

The bride earned an undergraduate degree from the University of New Hampshire and has a chartered financial analyst (CFA) rating. She is a partner at Brinson Partners in Chicago.

The groom earned an undergraduate degree and master's degree in business from Cornell University. He is a vice president of Goldman Sachs in Chicago.

The newlyweds traveled to Hawaii. They live in Chicago.

### Wise-Safron

Michele Amy Wise, daughter of Mary Ann Wise of Farmington Hills and the late Bruce Robert Wise, married Dr. Andrew Paul Safron III, son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew P. Safron of Grosse Pointe Woods, on Aug. 20, 1994, at Nardin Park United Methodist Church.

The Rev. Bob Bough officiated at the 5 p.m. ceremony, which was followed by a reception at the Hotel Baronette in Novi.

The bride wore a white silk gown that featured an embroidered bodice, a bustle and a train. She carried a bouquet of oriental lilies.

The matron of honor was Debbie Anderson of New Era.

Bridesmaids were Noreen Hanlon of Scottsville, Karen Blair of Los Angeles and Shelagh Bitter of Clawson.

Attendants wore fuchsia cotton floor-length dresses with off-the-shoulder necklines and carried bouquets of mixed flowers.

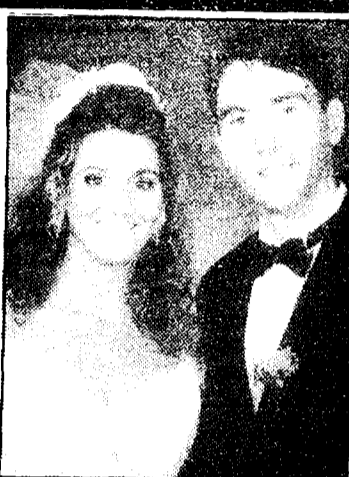
The best man was Dr. William Ciaravino of Grosse Pointe Woods.

Groomsmen were William Messer of Mission Viejo, Calif.; Paul Salcido of Los Angeles; and Dr. James Valice of Grosse Pointe Woods.

The mother of the bride wore an ivory suit with pearl decorated sleeves and a corsage of fuchsia oriental lilies.

The groom's mother wore a floor-length cream-colored satin suit decorated with pearls and sequins and a corsage of fuchsia oriental lilies.

The bride's brother, Eric Bruce Wise of Glendale, Calif., gave the bride away. The or-



Dr. and Mrs. Andrew Paul Safron III

ganist was Beverly Notestine; the soloist was Christina Cabone.

The bride graduated from Michigan State University. She is a special education teacher at Greco Junior High School in Tampa, Fla.

The groom earned bachelor's and doctorate degrees from Michigan State University. He is a resident in psychiatry at the University of Southern Florida Hospital in Tampa.

The couple lives in Tampa.

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## REFLECTIONS

on a year  
gone by

This has been a difficult year for some... a merciful year for others. We ask you to join us in expressing our sympathies to the families we have served during the past twelve months. May the coming year be a blessed one for you and your family.

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## New arrivals

### Joseph Francis Murray

Laurie and Frank Murray of Livonia are the parents of a son, Joseph Francis Murray, born Sept. 21, 1994. Maternal grandparents are Mrs. Thomas Trefzer of Grosse Pointe Park and Charles MacKinnon of St. Clair Shores. Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Francis Murray of Dearborn Heights.

### Timothy Gilbert Cobau

Joseph Jenkins and Ellen Marie Cobau of Melrose, Mass., are the parents of a son, Timothy Gilbert Cobau, born Nov. 8, 1994. Maternal grandmother is

Virginia M. Gallagher of Malden, Mass. Paternal grandparents are John and Arlene Cobau of Grosse Pointe Woods.

### Regan Peter Shannon

Sean and Laura Joseph Shannon of Royal Oak are the parents of a son, Regan Peter Shannon, born Sept. 10, 1994. Maternal grandparents are Peter and Christine Joseph of Harper Woods. Paternal grandparents are Mary Jean Shannon of Detroit and Joseph James Shannon II of Detroit. Great-grandparents are John L. and Marguerite Joseph of Grosse Pointe Shores.

**Engaged?  
Married?  
Announce it  
in the  
Grosse Pointe  
News**

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<b>ANN ARBOR</b> (313) 677-8500	<b>EAST LANSING</b> (517) 333-3900	<b>FLINT</b> (810) 733-8686	<b>GRAND RAPIDS</b> (616) 957-3430	

The HoneyBaked Ham Company stores are found nationwide with over 250 locations in 35 states. To find HoneyBaked brand hams anywhere in the continental U.S.A., call toll-free 1-800-672-HAMS.







## Opera League presents 'Die Fledermaus' on New Year's Eve

The Opera League of Detroit will hold its New Year's Eve opera gala on (of course) Saturday, Dec. 31, at the Renaissance Ballroom of the Westin Hotel.

The black-tie benefit for Michigan Opera Theatre begins at 7 p.m. Entertainment includes a presentation of the second act of Johann Strauss' "Die Fledermaus," by the Michigan Opera Theatre, featuring guest artist **Ron Raines**.

Tickets are priced from \$250 a couple (bar, dinner, performance, dancing to the Emil Moro Band, a champagne toast, parking, taxes and gratuities); to \$500 a couple (all of the above plus overnight accommodations, a continental breakfast on New Year's Day, valet parking and a program listing).

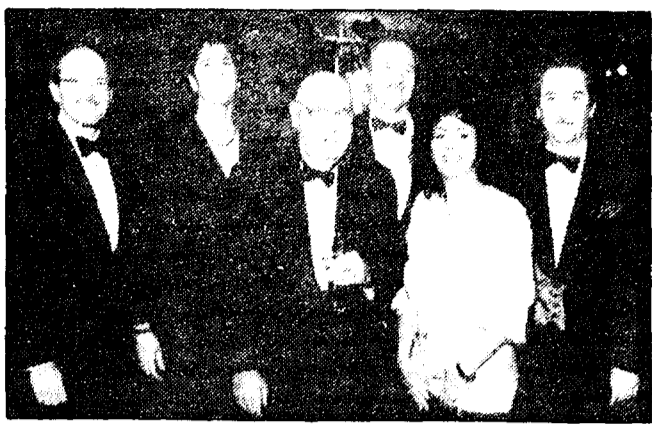
Grosse Pointers Dr. and Mrs. Donald Austin are honorary chairmen; Gloria Clark is president of the volunteer association; and Dr. Lourdes Andaya and Mr. and Mrs. Frank A. Germack Jr. are members of the host committee.

Grosse Pointers on the MOT board of directors include Mrs. Donald Austin, J. Addison Bartush, Mrs. Frederick Clark, Julia Darlow, Mrs. Charles M. Endicott, Mrs. Lawrence Garberding, John Griffin, Leonard C. Jaques, Alphonse Lucarelli, S. Kinzie Smith Jr. and Mrs. R. Alexander Wrigley.

For reservations to the gala, call (313) 568-8200.

**Send gifts:** The Detroit Psychiatric Institute, a Michigan mental health facility in the old Herman Kiefer Hospital complex, wants to provide two gifts to each patient who is hospitalized during the Christmas holidays.

They need help. The institute



### CCS wine auction

The Detroit International Wine Auction, a benefit for Detroit's Center for Creative Studies, was held Oct. 29. More than 270 people helped raise \$116,000 for CCS.

Among those present were, from left, Richard L. Rogers of Grosse Pointe Farms, CCS president; Susan Kennedy of Grosse Pointe Park, co-chairman of the auction; Charlie F. Wagner, honorary chairman; L. Neal Kennedy of Grosse Pointe Park, auction co-chairman; and Maria and Al Lucarelli of Grosse Pointe Park, 1995 co-chairmen.

welcomes donations of gift items such as pocket radios, 1995 calendars, jewelry, bathrobes and flannel PJs for men and women, slippers, gloves, mittens, scarves, sun glasses, desk lamps, board games, jeans, sweatshirts, T-shirts, playing cards, etc.

The institute always needs donations of tickets to local sports events and performances — the DSO coffee hour concerts, for instance, or Pistons games, circus tickets, roller skating passes, daytime theater tickets, events or rehearsals at the Fox Theatre, and tickets to events at the Palace.

To make a donation, call Linda Marshall at (313) 874-7747.

**Strike:** The Michigan Cancer Foundation will hold its second Frederick J. Lozen Memorial Moonlight Bowl on Thursday, Dec. 29, at Ark Sterling Lanes in Sterling Heights.

Proceeds will support the foundation's research programs. Advance registration is \$15; \$17 at the door. Tickets include three games of bowling, shoe rental, pizza, pop and mystery game tickets. Registration begins at 9 p.m.

For information, or to register, call DeMarco Willis at (313) 833-0715, ext. 309.

**When in Rome:** City of Grosse Pointe resident Sister Anne Marie Mack of Bon Secours Hospital was one of some 700 local people from the metro Detroit area who traveled to Vatican City to witness the elevation of Detroit's Archbishop Adam Maida to cardinal.

Mack, who was attending a meeting in Rome with representatives of the Sisters of Bon Secours from all over the world, took time off for the event. She attended the ceremony, had a private audience with Pope John Paul II and attended a reception where she was greeted by the pontiff.

— Margie Reins Smith

### Thanks

Grosse Pointer James W. Duff, Detroit-Macomb Hospital Corp. board member, at left, was honored for his volunteer work recently at a Thanks for Giving luncheon. Duff was one of several volunteers in the tri-county area who were recognized for their work within health care organizations.

Grosse Pointer Chuck Gaidica of WDIV-TV, right, served as master of ceremonies for the luncheon.



### Winner

Pat Tapert of Grosse Pointe Park, a member of the Grosse Pointe Wreaths Club, won a bronze ribbon in the decorative division of the 10th annual Festival of Trees wreath decorating contest. Tapert used natural fruits and berries on her grapevine creation.



## Engagements

### Bagno-Robinson

Mrs. Sherry Dunsmore Bagno of Grosse Pointe Farms and Robert Joseph Bagno of the City of Grosse Pointe have announced the engagement of their daughter, Adrienne Amelia Bagno, to Christopher Champlin Robinson II, son of the Honorable and Mrs. Davis Rowland Robinson of Washington, D.C. A June wedding is planned.

Bagno earned a bachelor of arts degree from Denison University. She is a project coordinator for Orascom of America.

Robinson also earned a bachelor of arts degree from Denison University. He is a financial adviser with Prudential Securities.



Adrienne Amelia Bagno

Grosse Pointe News Features:  
343-5594



Elizabeth A. Pankey and Christopher B. Warren

### Pankey-Warren

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Pankey of Birmingham, Ala., have announced the engagement of their daughter, Elizabeth A. Pankey, to Christopher B. Warren, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald E. Warren of Grosse Pointe Farms. An April wedding is planned.

Pankey is a graduate of Rhodes College and Vanderbilt Divinity School. She is associate pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Boca Raton, Fla.

Warren graduated from Michigan State University with an accounting degree. He is a partner in an estate and investment planning practice in Boca Raton.

### Rebecca Campen, M.D.

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**Pointe Counter Points**  
By kathleen stevenson

**CHARTERHOUSE & CO.**  
Estate Jewellers and Antiquarians

If you have an autograph or historical document that you've thought about selling, call the buyers at Charterhouse. They buy single items or entire collections; but, they don't buy signatures of living persons. Weekdays 9:00 to 5:00... at 16835 Kercheval, In-The-Village. 885-1232 or (800) 233-2233.



The staff at THE NOTRE DAME PHARMACY says "Merry Christmas to all!" and extends wishes for a very Healthy & Happy New Year. We appreciate your loyal patronage through the year... 16929 Kercheval In-The-Village, 885-2154.



Running out of ideas for Christmas... running out of time... you can always call CONNER PARK Florists and we'll be happy to help you and assist you in your holiday greetings and gifts... at 21142 Mack Avenue, Grosse Pointe Woods, 881-5550.

**YOUNG CLOTHES AND YOUNG FURNITURE**

Let it snow! Let it snow! Let it snow! Hope the season piles lots of cheer on your doorstep. "Merry Christmas" from YOUNG CLOTHES... 17027 Kercheval In-The-Village, 881-7227... and YOUNG FURNITURE... 110 Kercheval On-The-Hill, 884-4150.

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For More Pointe Counter Points See Page 108

To advertise in this column call Kathleen Stevenson at 343-5582 by 2:00 p.m. Fridays

## The Pastor's Corner

### Together

By the Rev. William C. DeVries  
First Christian Reformed Church



It took years to settle the issue. It summoned levels of diplomacy far beyond those expected of mere mortals. People held their breaths as the negotiations proceeded and gasped with relief when the solution was finally announced. The representatives of each party were beaming with pride and joy when the issue was finally laid to rest. And the solution?

Ahh! We would spend Christmas Eve at my paternal grandmother's and get together at my maternal grandmother's home after church on Christmas Day.

I do not know why these hostilities broke out year after year. Truce terms each year looked remarkably similar to those from previous years. The key was we would get together with as much of the family as possible. Some how. Some way.

Nearly everyone agrees that Christmas is about much more than gifts and lights and trees and feasts. Now that I have begun to function in the grandparent category, it dawns on me that Christmas is about getting together. It is not only about who can be there with us, but also about all those we wish were here. We think of those who are just too far away. And we remember those who were here with us or there for us long ago — but are now gone. Once again we are connected, tied to those near and far. Christmas is about being together.

That's because the real Christmas, the first Christmas which cast the mold, was about getting together. It's easy to hear the echoes of the gathering in the old, old stories. A righteous Jewish man accepted a pregnant virgin as his fiancée. Shepherds gathered at a stable in the middle of the night to view a simple newborn. Angels chanted of peace and of God's good will. Foreign star gazers came together to give gifts to what turned out to be a commoner.

But those who told us those stories are convinced of something much greater behind the scenes. The first Christmas was not merely another cross-cultural friendship outing. It was not even just a call from God to "be nice," "do peaceful things," and "put up with each other."

No, the birth of Jesus was not God's way of giving us a chance to get together.

The writers of the birth stories seem utterly convinced that at the birth of Jesus, God had come calling on people. Not just some cute infant forced to lie in a stable. But the power behind the stars and winds and mountains was actually getting together with humans — by becoming one. The old story tellers were convinced that finally God and people would finally get together. Not they might or they can, but they must.

Now people will seek peace and God's good will. Not they can or they should, but they must.

It seems obvious from human history, national as well as personal, that we have been resisting the power of Christmas for a long time. And it is not that we have to listen closer and try harder so that togetherness will become our theme.

We need to see again the child, Jesus. We need to face again that those who told the story saw him as the Christ and the Lord.

At some point we need to ask ourselves, honestly and really, what would happen if God showed up for our holiday. Not the laughable God of our culture: old and weak and laughing. But, rather the God worthy of the name God: full of power, wisdom, justice and grace.

What if that God showed up on Christmas to be together with us all? What if it happened? Because ... it did.



### Landmark Award

The Grosse Pointe Woods Beautification Commission presented its highest honor, the Landmark Award, to Grosse Pointe Woods Presbyterian Church, 19950 Mack, for its continued excellence in beautification.

Mike Zolik, chairman of the Beautification Commission, said the award goes to a business church that has shown at least 10 years of excellence and has received the Mayor's Trophy for beautification at least once.

From left, are the Rev. Jack Ziegler, pastor of Grosse Pointe Woods Presbyterian Church; Robert Novitke, mayor of Grosse Pointe Woods; and June Gill, representing the church.

## Santa needs a check-up

Santa needs a lifestyle change: he's overweight, he smokes, he suffers from job-related stress and he only exercises once a year — climbing down chimneys.

In addition, his diet doesn't look good. Overdoing it with cookies and milk can hike his cholesterol and his risk of heart disease, too.

"Santa needs to stay away from high-fat foods and start exercising regularly, not just one night a year, to lose that belly," said Dr. Keith Burch, medical director at Henry Ford Medical Center — West Bloomfield. "Kids can do Santa a big favor by leaving fruits and vegetables on Christmas Eve instead."

"He's overweight and out of shape and that has to take its toll on his back. Lugging around that potbelly as well as the sack full of presents can create serious strain on his back muscles and lumbar spine, not to mention causing a hernia."

As if smoking a pipe isn't bad enough, he also breathes in soot and other toxins while he's going down all those chimneys. This puts him at serious risk for mouth and lung cancer as well as other respiratory diseases. It also can contribute to heart disease.

"Santa should go through a smoke-stoppers program during his off-season when he's not so stressed," Burch said. "He needs to be around for a long time and quitting smoking is the best thing he can do for himself and everyone who depends on him."

Spending so much time with

children in the malls around the holiday season also can be a health problem for the big guy. Kids can carry all kinds of viral illnesses and pass them along, especially if they happen to cough or sneeze while sitting on someone's lap.

"I highly recommend that Santa get a flu shot," Burch said.

With the large volume of work Santa has to accomplish in one night, a stress management class wouldn't be a bad idea either. He might benefit from some meditation techniques and relaxation tapes.

Given Santa's age, he also should have a general check-up which includes an electrocardiogram (EKG), colon examination, hearing test and prostate exam.

"If Santa made a few lifestyle changes, he'd feel better all year long," Burch said.

### Support group is for caregivers

The Grosse Pointe support group for Alzheimer's caregivers meets on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Grosse Pointe Woods Presbyterian Church, 19950 Mack in Grosse Pointe Woods. All meetings are free and everyone is welcome.

At support group meetings, family members learn about the medical, legal, financial and emotional aspects of Alzheimer's disease. For more information, call Elmer Stanke at (810) 268-1044 or Anne Lilla at (810) 557-8277.

## Delta Kappa Gamma Society holds its annual Christmas tea

Alpha Mu, the Grosse Pointe chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, held a Christmas tea on Dec. 4 at the home of Valerie Moran. The annual event was a fundraiser for the chapter's scholarship fund. Donated gifts were given to the Coalition on Temporary Shelter (COTS).



The Women's Ensemble, members of Grosse Pointe North High School's Concert Choir, entertained members with holiday music. The choir is directed by Margaret Steel; Robert Foster is the accompanist.

Members of Alpha Mu, the Grosse Pointe chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, got together for a Christmas tea and scholarship fundraiser. From left, are Valerie Moran, hostess; Fran Natushko, corresponding secretary; Michele Yankee, president; Ann Elmer, recording secretary; Sandy Tenkle, second vice president; and Alfrida Frost, treasurer. Not shown was Doris Zenn, first vice president and program chairman.

### Selective singles meets Dec. 23

Selective Singles Social and Travel Club is a group of business and professional people ages 40 - 60 who are divorced, widowed or single. Members and non-members are welcome to join the group on Friday, Dec. 23, at Cienie's Nautical Mile Cafe (formerly the Jefferson Colonnade), 24223 Jefferson, at 7 p.m. for dinner. Reservations are appreciated. Or — you can join the group at 8:30 p.m. for cocktails and conversation. Call Ramona at (313) 884-2986 for reservations.

For further information about the club, call (800) 867-0888.

### Volunteers needed

Hospice of Southeastern Michigan, an organization dedicated to providing comfort and support to terminally ill patients and their families, is seeking volunteers in the Grosse Pointes.

Volunteers assist in many ways, including caring for the patient and family, providing support for office staff and assisting in grief support programs. Volunteers are particularly needed to drive patients to and from doctor's appointments and to and from grief support group meetings.

Anyone interested in becoming a hospice volunteer should call (810) 445-6855.

## HOLIDAY WORSHIP SERVICES



**Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church**  
Christmas Eve Service  
5:30 p.m.  
10:30 a.m. Service & Church School  
17150 MAUMEE  
881-0420  
Rev. John Corrado, Minister

THE SUBJECT FOR THIS SUNDAY IS:

"Christian Science"  
First Church of Christ, Scientist  
Grosse Pointe Farms,  
282 Chalfonte Ave.  
4 blocks West of Moross  
Sunday 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday School 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday 8:00 p.m.

ALL ARE WELCOME

**Historic Mariners' Church** Since 1842  
Independent Anglican  
All Faiths Welcome  
The 1928 Book of Common Prayer



THE EVE OF CHRISTMAS  
Sunday, December 24, 7:30 and 11:00 p.m.  
Duplicate Services: Festival Choral Communion

Sunday, January 1  
One Service only  
10:00 a.m. — The Holy Communion

Mariners' on Hart Plaza at the Tunnel  
Free Parking, Ford Garage  
Enter at Woodward & Jefferson  
The Rev. Richard W. Ingalls, Rector  
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## Come Share the Joy!



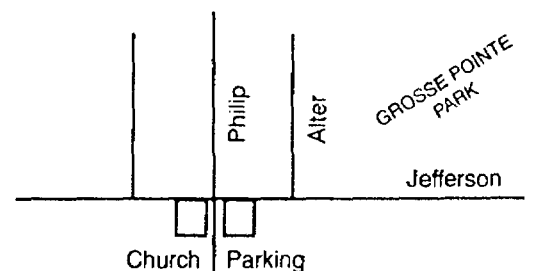
CHRISTMAS  
EVE  
CANDLELIGHT  
SERVICE

December 24th — 8:00 p.m.  
Christmas Day — 10:30 a.m. Worship

### Faith Lutheran Church

897 Philip at Jefferson  
822-2296

The Church where City and Suburbs Meet!



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to  
**HELGA**  
on her  
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Please stop in to say goodbye and share in our holiday cheer.

Thurs., Dec. 22nd, Fri., Dec. 23rd,  
Sat., Dec. 24th

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

117 KERCHEVAL  
881-6833

## Grosse Pointe Baptist Church CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Vespers  
Christmas Day 11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Come Exalt the Lord with us!  
21336 Mack Avenue - Grosse Pointe Woods, MI

**Redeemer United Methodist Church**  
20571 Vernier Road Harper Woods  
884-2035

Christmas Eve  
Service of Carols and  
Candlelighting 7:00 p.m. & 11:00 p.m.  
11:00 p.m. Holy Communion  
Christmas Day — 10:30 a.m. Worship



Rev. Ron Corl







# Holiday Worship Services

## FIRST ENGLISH EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

Vernier Road at Wedgewood Drive Grosse Pointe Woods TU4-5040



### CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00 p.m. Candlelight Service  
7:15 p.m. Special Music  
7:30 p.m. Candlelight Service  
10:45 p.m. Special Music  
11:00 p.m. Midnight  
Candlelight Service with  
Holy Communion

### CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 a.m.  
Worship with Holy  
Communion

PASTOR  
Dr. Walter A. Schmidt

## Grosse Pointe Woods PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

19950 Mack Avenue 886-4300  
(Halfway between Moross and Vernier Roads)

### CHRISTMAS EVE

7:00 p.m. Family Service  
11:00 p.m. Candlelight Service

### CHRISTMAS DAY

11:00 a.m. Worship Service



### CHRIST CHURCH

East Jefferson and I-375 Detroit  
*Invites You To Attend*

5:15 — Carols 5:30 — Family Service  
10:30 — "The Magnificat" by Pergolesi  
11:00 — Festival Eucharist — Chancel Choir & Strings  
CHRISTMAS DAY - 10:30 A.M. — Carols & Holy Eucharist

Security Parking The Rev. Ervin A. Brown Rector  
Dr. Joanne Vollendorf Organist/Choirmaster

## GROSSE POINTE UNITED CHURCH

240 Chalfonte at Lothrop • 884-3075

### CHRISTMAS EVE

7:00 p.m. Family Candlelight Service  
11:00 p.m. Midnight Candlelight Service  
7:00 p.m. Crib room only

### CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 A.M. Worship

Rev. Nancy Rohde, Interim Pastor



## The Grosse Pointe Memorial Church

Established 1865 The Presbyterian Church (USA)

Communion

THE REV. R. MICHAEL FOLEY, preaching

11:00 Worship 10:45-12:15 Crib/Toddler Care

New Year's Eve Service  
7:30 pm Ecumenical Worship  
Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church

New Year's Day Service  
11:00 Worship with Communion

16 Lakeshore Drive, Grosse Pointe Farms 882-5330

A STEPHEN MINISTRY and LOGOS Congregation

## Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church

211 Moross Road • 886-2363

### CHRISTMAS EVE

5:30 p.m. - Family Service  
9:00 p.m. - Lessons, Carols, Candles & Communion  
10:00 p.m. - Reception for College Students  
11:00 p.m. - Lessons, Carols, Candles & Communion

### CHRISTMAS DAY

10:30 a.m. - Worship  
No Sunday School



MINISTERS:

Jack E. Giguere

David Leenhouts



## JEFFERSON AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

8625 E. Jefferson at Burns, Detroit

Celebrate a Traditional Christmas in the City

### CHRISTMAS EVE - 9:30 p.m.

Piano and string prelude - 9 p.m.  
A Traditional Candlelight Service  
Meditation: "O Holy Night"  
Rev. Peter C. Smith  
Celebration of the Lord's Supper  
Organ, strings and choral music

### CHRISTMAS DAY - 10:30 a.m.

A Festival Service  
Sermon: "Tis Christmas Morning"  
Rev. Peter C. Smith

Secured Parking

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## CHRIST CHURCH OF GROSSE POINTE

61 Grosse Pointe Boulevard  
Grosse Pointe, Michigan 48236  
885-4841

## WELCOME TO CELEBRATIONS OF CHRISTMAS CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

### CHRISTMAS EVE - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

5:00 p.m. Family Holy Eucharist with  
"The Procession of the Creche"  
Choir of Men and Girls  
Nursery Care Provided

8:00 p.m. Festival Holy Eucharist  
The Christ Church Chorale & Handbell Choir

11:00 p.m. Festival Holy Eucharist  
10:30 p.m. Prelude

"A Ceremony of Carols" by Benjamin Britten  
Choir of Boys and Girls and Harp

### CHRISTMAS DAY - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

8:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist  
11:15 a.m. Festival Holy Eucharist  
Choir of Men and Girls

61 Grosse Pointe Blvd.  
885-4841

## ST. PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

881-6670

Chalfonte and Lothrop

### CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00 p.m. - Worship with  
Continuous Communion  
Nursery Care Provided  
10:00 p.m. - Candlelight Worship  
with Communion

### CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 a.m. Worship with  
Communion

Rev. Fred Harms

Rev. Colleen Kamke



## Come! Worship With Us...

Christmas Eve Family Service of Lessons and Carols -  
Saturday, December 24 at 6 p.m.

Carols, Candles and Communion -  
Saturday, December 24 at 11:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY EUCHARIST  
Sunday, December 25 at 11:00 a.m.

Pastor Troy G. Waite



## ST. JAMES

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IN GROSSE POINTE FARMS

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## St. Michael's Episcopal Church

20475 Sunningdale Park, Grosse Pointe Woods  
884-4820

The Rev. Robert E. Neilly, Rector  
Rev. Jack G. Trembath

### CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 p.m. Children's Carol Eucharist  
Nursery Care 7:30 p.m. and 4 p.m.  
7:00 p.m. Christmas Lessons and Carols  
7:30 p.m. Choral Eucharist and Sermon  
11:00 p.m. Christmas Lessons and Carols  
11:30 p.m. Choral Eucharist and Sermon

### CHRISTMAS DAY

10:30 a.m. Eucharist and Homily



## CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH

Mack & Lochmoor, G.P.W. • 884-5090

Welcomes You!

Christmas Eve  
Family Candlelight Service  
7:30 p.m.  
Candlelight with Sr. Choir  
10:45 p.m.

### CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

10:30 a.m.  
Sermon by Pastor Randy S. Boelter



## THE CHRISTMAS SEASON AT ST. AMBROSE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Saturday, December 24

VIGIL OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST  
Children's Liturgy - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 25

FEAST OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST  
Concert - 11:30 p.m. Christmas Eve  
Midnight Mass - 12:00 a.m.  
Mass of Christmas Day - 8:30 a.m.  
Mass of Christmas Day - 11:15 a.m.

Saturday, December 31 and

Sunday, January 1

FEAST OF THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY  
Mass on Saturday - 4:00 p.m.  
Mass on Sunday - 8:30 a.m.  
Mass on Sunday - 11:15 a.m.

Sunday, January 8

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY  
Mass - 8:30 a.m.  
Mass - 11:15 a.m.

St. Ambrose Church is located  
On 15020 Hampton Avenue  
Between Wayburn and Maryland  
One block north of Jefferson,  
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Telephone: 822-2814



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The very best gift baskets available
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Come in and try the best.
- Large selection of Fine beers from the USA and around the Globe.
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**WINE SPECIAL**  
All 1.5 Liter bottles of wine \$1.00 off  
All Champagnes 10% off per bottle, 15% off per case  
Perrier-Jouet four glass gift packs \$10.00 off each  
Martini & Rossi Asti Spumante 6 Liter bottle Regular \$159.00 now only \$129.00  
All other wines 10% case discount, plus lots of in-store specials

**COFFEE SPECIAL**  
Twelve Coffees of Christmas Regular \$15.95 now only \$12.95  
Whole bean gourmet coffee \$3.00 lb. off  
Pure Kona Extra Fancy and Jamaican Blue Mountain \$5.00 lb. off.  
Buy 1 package of 16 oz. hot chocolate or larger and receive A FREE mug (while supplies last)

**TEA SPECIAL**  
Over 175 varieties of tea to choose from  
First Colony Tea Buy 2 get 1 FREE!  
All teas 10% Off (excluding First Colony)  
Ashby Tea of London Porcelain Tea Pots, hand painted and numbered, limited edition, filled with four varieties of Ashby tea regular \$59.95 now \$10.00 Off

**AMERICAN SPOON FOOD SPECIAL**  
Michigan's finest preserves, jams, jellies, and sauces from Petoskey Michigan  
Buy any 3 American Spoon Food items get 1 FREE!  
American Spoon Food gift boxes available in various sizes.

**JOSEPH SCHMIDT CHOCOLATE SPECIAL**  
The finest hand painted chocolates and truffles made in America!  
All Joseph Schmidt products 20% Off  
Perfect gifts for that someone special!

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Custom Gift Baskets Available. Choose from many of our theme baskets:  
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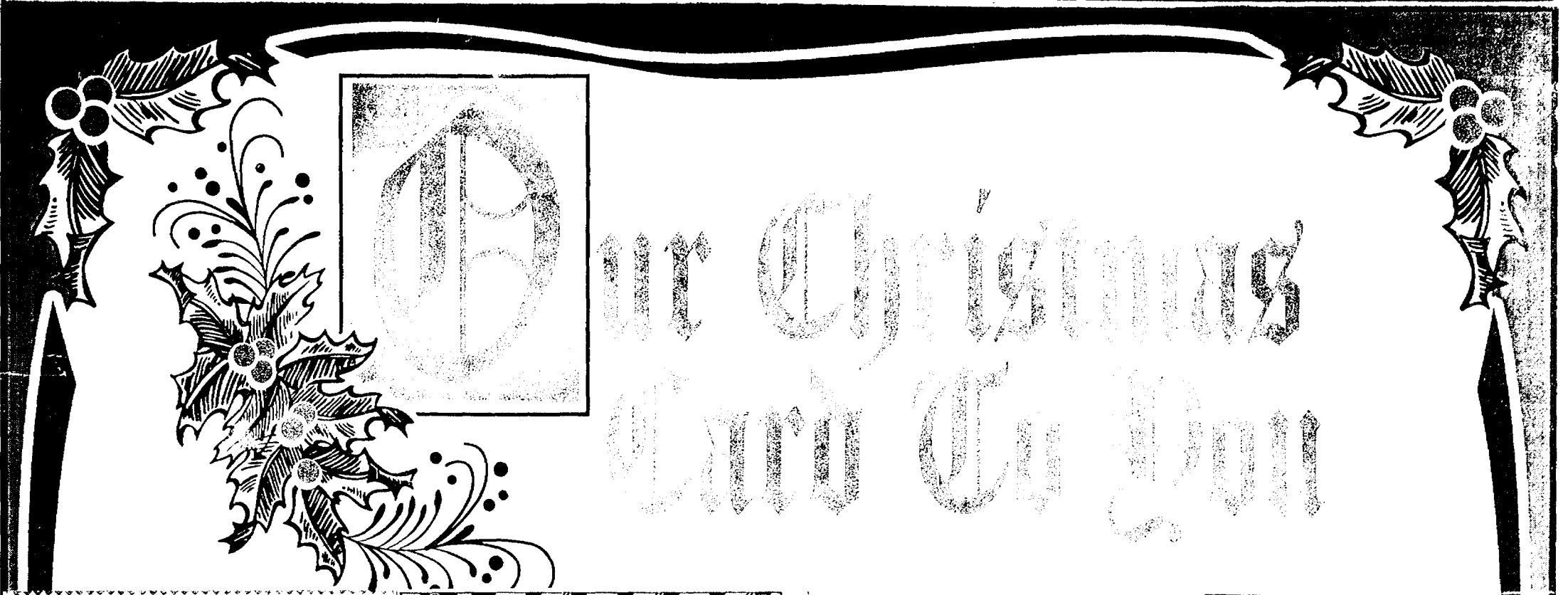
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*Happy New Year!*  
OXFORD BEVERAGE  
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*Have A Dog Give Your Holiday*  
May your Christmas be Purr-fect in every way.  
Many thanks from...  
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I wish to thank all of my loyal customers for a rewarding year!  
My best to you!  
*Merry Christmas  
Happy New Year*  
Jean Forton  
Estate & Moving Sales  
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YARD & GARDEN LANDSCAPING  
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10% DISCOUNT FOR EARLY 1995 ORDERS  
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*Wishes A Toasty Holiday Season To All*  
**FLAME FURNACE COMPANY**  
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OUR CHRISTMAS CARD TO YOU  
HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM...  
**HALLMARK REMODELING**  
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**Quality Workmanship**  
Joe 881-1085 Paul

It was a few days before Christmas and all through the house the creatures were stirring even the mouse!  
On Dancer! On Prancer! and on Mr. B!  
A call from Santa said "Please help me!"  
He with my truck and a tank full of gas says "Merry Christmas!" to every Laddie & Lass.  
Appliance removal to wholehouse moves.  
Garage, yard, basement clean outs  
Experienced. Free Estimates  
**Mr. B's • 882-3096**

**HO! HO! HO!**  
He knows if you've been sleeping.  
He knows when you're awake.  
He knows if you've been bad or good.  
And WE know our customers have been very good to us!  
Merry Christmas  
**IN & OUT PARTY STORE**  
17101 E. Warren - Detroit, MI, 48224

*Seasons Greetings*  
**MICHIGAN HUMANE SOCIETY**  
Detroit 7401 Chrysler Dr. (313) 872-3400  
**Paw Pour! Gift Shop**  
817 N. Main (810) 545-3780  
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*BECAUSE THE GOOD WILL OF THOSE WE SERVE IS THE FOUNDATION OF OUR SUCCESS IT'S A REAL PLEASURE AT THIS HOLIDAY TIME TO SAY "THANK YOU" AS WE WISH YOU A FULL YEAR OF HAPPINESS AND SUCCESS.*  
**Tim's Handy Services**  
885-8224

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**  
Thanks for your continued patronage. We look forward to serving you in the coming year.  
**BOB'S DRUGS**  
20134 Mack Ave. Grosse Pointe, MI 48236

*Warmest Wishes This Holiday Season*  
from  
**R.G. Edgar & Associates**  
**886-6010**

**KIKSA JEWELERS**  
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## Movie madness: A report from the front

By Ronald J. Bernas  
Assistant Editor

So, you want to write a movie.

You've got an idea and a typewriter. That's all you need, right?

That's what Mary Beth Smith of the City of Grosse Pointe thought.

Smith, whose first movie, "Running Free," hit Blockbuster Video stores yesterday, says movie writers need patience, funding, perseverance, funding, luck and funding.

Oh yes, an attorney helps, too.

In the tradition of family nature films like "Free Willy," Smith's movie tells the story of a friendship between a lonely boy and a wolverine and is set in the wilds of Alaska.

Smith, who has written several episodes of "Marty Stouffer's Wild America," has been

working on the film since 1991 when she was approached by Steve Kroschel, a cinematographer who filmed the episodes of "Wild America" that she wrote.

"He said he wanted to write a story about a wolverine and together we came up with a story," she said.

Once the story was decided upon, Smith set to work doing research. She found the most help not in the library, but in the departments of wildlife management in the few states which still have a wolverine population. She also found a lot of stories in the journals of trappers.

"I found out a lot of interesting things," Smith said. "First of all, that there's no place in the world that isn't trapped. That amazed me."

But more specifically, about wolverines, she learned that their only natural enemy is

man. Most wild animals avoid wolverines because of their sharp teeth and ferocious manner of fighting. Hunters shoot wolverines for their trophy rooms. Trappers shoot wolverines because they raid their traps, eating the animals before the trappers can get back to them.

Wolverines have voracious appetites, roaming a 100-square-mile area in search of food. Only one wolverine can live on each 100-square-mile area, so as development encroaches on the wilderness, fewer wolverines can find food.

The four-legged stars of the movie are noted for being the only wolverines bred in captivity. They were raised by Kroschel on his farm in Minnesota. The film also includes the only footage of baby wolverines being born and the only footage of the wolverine's unique mat-

ing ritual.

"This film had a message I believed in," Smith said. "It's that man and animal can co-exist if they respect each other's space. And that people should think twice about taming wild animals."

She had help from award-winning Pointe filmmaker Harvey Ovshinsky, who offers a screenwriting class locally, which helped Smith bring a focus to the film.

Although she discovered a lot about wolverines and a lot about writing, she learned her hardest lesson after the script was done: "Once you've sold it, you have no control."

Smith had nothing to do with the filming, which was conducted in Alaska and Minnesota. But production stopped when the funds dried up. Then



See MOVIE, page 9B Mary Beth Smith holds the star of her first movie.

## 'Disclosure' is old-fashioned thriller built around a new-fangled premise

By John Miskelly  
Special Writer

"I'm old fashioned. I usually greet my subordinates with a handshake," says Susan Sanders (played by Caroline Goodall) in a key scene in the movie "Disclosure."

The film, though, centers around Michael Douglas as Tom Sanders, the head of manufacturing at a Seattle computer firm. He starts his day — and the film — at a high point, drops to great depths, then rises again — not quite to where he was, but close enough.

The film addresses the serious issue of the '90s — sexual harassment — but with a twist: She harasses him.

"She" is Demi Moore. Complete with that long hair that made her popular way back when she played a part in the daytime soap "General Hospital." But the role of the self-absorbed workaholic, do-anything-for-the-company-as-long-as-it-benefits-you woman, seems better suited for someone like Sharon Stone or Ellen Barkin.

As things get rolling, though, Moore slides perfectly into the part. She approaches Sanders — who just happens to be her subordinate, and, in a private meeting, things get hot and steamy. Though he let his machismo get the better of him he does eventually halt the encounter.

She, however, calls it sexual harassment. Here begins what appears to be a thriller complete with tense music to set the mood

and the tone. It all works. Though it is clear no one will experience any physical harm, one still gets the sense that lives are at stake.

Sanders quickly enlists the aid of an attorney played by Roma Maffia of the CBS medical drama "Chicago Hope."

some corporate espionage takes place via computer and advanced technology. It is quite simply breathtaking.

There even is a deep throat who communicates with Sanders via e-mail. Very inventive usage. Unfortunately, the revelation of who deep throat is be-



Harry Wetzel, left, and City of Grosse Pointe resident Marty Bufalini put on a wild "Christmas Carol" in the Attic Theatre's "Inspecting Carol."

## 'Inspecting' is a merry un-'Carol'

By Ronald J. Bernas  
Assistant Editor

A theater company on its last legs is presenting Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" for the umpteenth time.

The rehearsal schedule has been shortened to four days because the manager of the group doesn't want to pay the actors for the full rehearsal time. Actors bicker back and forth, play several different parts, upstage each other, and technical difficulties are more common than the things that are supposed to go right.

Sounds as though "Inspecting Carol," which is running at the Attic through Jan. 8, was written for the Attic.

Indeed, sitting in a Saturday matinee that attracted only about 20 people and holding the plain-paper, photocopied program, which looks like it was rescued from under the seat after a previous performance, it's not hard to imagine you're watching a theater company fold.

But the show offers a Santa-sized bag full of laughs and, we hope, will breathe some life into the Attic, and some money into its coffers.

"Inspecting Carol" shows what happens when too many actors want creative input in a story that's just fine as it stands. It shows the destructive force of huge egos, and the little children behind those masks.

Overburdened theater manager Zorah Bloch (Sandra Birch) has been forced to re-hire her worst nightmare to play Scrooge. Larry Vauxhall (Harry Wetzel) has played Scrooge for her many times in the past, but last year, he did his part entirely in Spanish to bring awareness to some politi-

### Inspecting Carol

A holiday spoof

At the Attic Theatre through Jan. 8

**4** 1 - Don't Bother  
2 - Nothing Special  
3 - It Has Moments  
4 - Better Than Most  
5 - Outstanding

cally au courant plight of some Central American country. Zorah has quite given up trying to understand her star.

Other members of the troupe include a young black actor (Garrin Clark) hired only to attract grants; a young boy (Zack Adam) with his own manager; a bitter stage manager (Susan Arnold); a prim-but-overbearing actress and her henpecked husband (Debbie Shekoski and Marty Bufalini), a hack actor who cares more about his imagined ailments than with getting his part right (Joseph Albright), and an office manager (Karen Sheridan) who's teetering on the edge of sanity.

Then there is the new — and extremely bad — actor who is allowed to join the troupe because the other members think he's a representative of the National Endowment for the Arts. (It makes sense on stage.)

The script, by Daniel Sullivan and the Seattle Repertory Company, is full of those biting, harsh one-liners that authors use when writing about actors, and it's very funny.

Director Joe Bailey keeps the action moving and the actors keep the energy coming — hard to do with so few people in the audience. It gets bogged down near the end when it shows scenes from the play in progress before the real NEA inspector, but by then you're hooked and it really doesn't matter.

The actors are consistently funny and make "Inspecting Carol" a nice way for the Attic to put itself back on the local theatrical map.

God bless them, everyone.



Demi Moore and Michael Douglas thrill in "Disclosure."

Maffia is good, but underused. Sanders tells his wife and her reaction is in the form of the aforementioned quote. She's not sure she believes him. Women can't sexually harass men. Eventually she, and the audience, comes around.

A lot of the action behind the sexual harassment charge and

comes a bit murky at the end.

Coming along for the ride is an excellent supporting cast which includes Donald Sutherland, who plays the company's chief. He is devious, stupid, whiny and at times painfully ignorant. Comedian Dennis Miller plays friend to Douglas' Sanders with some early witti-

cisms, although someone needed to trim his beard.

Filmed in Seattle, the sky-lines and numerous shots of the city and its downtown area make it an even more desirable place to live than before.

Moore does get her comeuppance, and how this happens is interesting and fun.

## 'Drop Zone': Stunts do not a movie make

By Marian Trainor  
Special Writer

In the action-packed adventure film "Drop Zone," story and characters take second billing to the amazing sequences featuring dazzling sky-diving stunts.

In this film, which is probably the most elaborate feature ever made about sky-diving, your attention is diverted from the story and is focused on the spectacular gravity-defying stunts that are routine in the dynamic and glamorous world of sky-diving.

Countless films have featured car chases and pursuits by water and airplanes. In "Speed" we were taken on a thrilling bus ride. But none of them come close to a free fall from a 747 traveling at 200 miles an hour at 38,000 feet. But no matter how breathtaking they are and how well they're executed, stunts alone do not make a film. They need a story to stitch them together.

While the sky occupies center stage in "Drop Zone," there are some earthbound scenes that feature Wesley Snipes as U.S. marshal Pete Nessip (an analog for Snipes) which show him trying to bring a gang of outlaw skydivers to justice.

The story opens aboard a 747 where Snipes and his brother,



Wesley Snipes stars in "Drop Zone."

Terry (Malcolm Jamal Warner) are escorting Earl Leedy (Michael Jeter), a convicted computer hacker, to a federal prison.

On board also is a gang of parachute-proficient bad guys

led by Ty Monerief (Gary Busey) who suddenly begin shooting. Their purpose is to snatch Leedy from his federal escort and escape with him through a gaping hole in the side of the plane. They plan to use Leedy to infiltrate the DEA

### Drop Zone

Rated R; violence

Starring Wesley Snipes

**3** 1 - Don't Bother  
2 - Nothing Special  
3 - It Has Moments  
4 - Better Than Most  
5 - Outstanding

computers to identify undercover drug agents and sell the information to the leader of a drug cartel.

Nessip vows revenge on the men who, in the melee, kill his brother. The only problem is that in order to catch the sky-diving bad guys, he has to learn to sky-dive.

Nessip becomes adept enough to be included in the legendary Fourth of July jump in Washington D.C., the only night of the year when sky-divers can violate the capital's air space.

That night is chosen by the bad guys to jump to the top of the federal building and lock into the secret files.

But this film isn't about plot, it's about sky-diving. See it for that alone, and expect nothing more, and you won't be disappointed.

## 1994: It was quite a year for travel

The year was a remarkable travel experience for me.

The combination of personal, husband-related and press trips kept me on the go continuously. (About this I have no complaints, you understand; I believe that it's my just reward for finally getting my youngest off to college.) The best part is that I continue to love it.

True, I wish my husband Chet could go along more often. And, true also, I wish he didn't fret so when I am away. And I hate getting out of my daily routine. But we manage.

Here are the highlights of a hectic 1994:

**January:** Attended the New York Boat Show and although I always enjoy this yearly trip to the Big Apple, the weather was especially brutal and walking outside wasn't much fun. For the first time ever, I followed the example of a good friend and took myself to a movie on a dreary afternoon. I savored "The Piano" and the popcorn all by myself.

**February:** Florida always gives us two events, the Miami Boat Show and the Coconut Grove Arts Festival. Guess which one my hubby prefers? Actually, the weather was again poor, with wind and rain almost every day. Finally it cleared up for the arts festival, which is always outstanding with food as good as the art. The 32nd annual festival is Feb. 18-20. For information, call (305) 447-0401.

We always stay at the Bay Harbor Inn, a gem of a little hotel/B&B that's right on the Intracoastal Waterway, about a block from the chi-chi Bal Harbour shopping mall. Breakfast is served in a boat tied up at the dock. You can opt to stay either in the old inn or in a newer wing right on the water. Staying here certainly does change your impression of Miami Beach. Phone (305) 868-4111.

**From there we went to Naples, where we spent three lovely days at the Edgewater Beach Hotel. Located right on the ocean, this small all-suites hotel was another "find" — perfect for both couples and families. Phone (813) 262-6511.**

**March:** If you've never been to the Four Corners — where Arizona, Utah, Colorado and New Mexico meet — this is a must. I toured the Grand Circle with 16 other writers on a 10-day trip which took in so much breathtaking scenery that it began to feel like an overdose. Beginning with the Grand Canyon, we flew over Lake Powell and Monument Valley, stayed on the Navajo reservation, and went on to take in a number of major national parks. Loved the town of Moab, a feisty little burg in the middle of Mormon country.

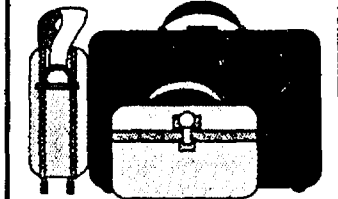
These are the places that you have seen photographed in so many famous ads. I was especially impressed with the Anasazi Indian ruins. For Grand Circle information, phone (602) 331-5222. If you want someone to set up your trip, I recommend Jimmy Vaughan, owner of Southwest Custom Tours, who accompanied our trip. His number is (800) 513-1381.

Oh yes, before flying into Phoenix I spent three days in Las Vegas checking up on all the new hotels. Hadn't been there in a dozen years. Stayed at the new Treasure Island — nice digs — and saw the hottest show in town: Siegfried and Roy.

**April:** This month I spent two weeks in Australia, visiting three different areas of Queensland with three other writers and was fascinated by the changing scenery and wildlife. Really enjoyed the Australian people and can't wait to return to the Great Barrier Reef. Next time I'd like to do a cruise of the reef on a small ship or stay at one of the small luxury resorts. I realized that the only way to see how different Australia is from the States is to go into the interior.

On the way to and from, Air New Zealand managed to give us eight-hour layovers in Auckland. During these, we were able to spend several hours exploring and frankly I want to go to New Zealand before I re-

## TRAVEL TRENDS



By Cynthia Boal Janssens

turn to Australia. Everything is so neat in this little island country and the scenery is said to be spectacular. The most popular way to do it is to rent a caravan (RV) and travel on your own for a couple of weeks.

**May:** A bit of a break, and finally had the opportunity to take some of my walking friends to our second home in northern Michigan. Unfortunately, our golf was rained out but Carole Bania and Barb Austin managed to leave some dough in the shops of Gaylord and we had a memorable dinner at Garland resort.

**June:** My chapter of the Society of American Travel Writers (SATW) had a most interesting meeting: It began in Montreal and then some 67 of us traveled by Via Rail to Quebec City and then on to the town of Perce, at the tip of the Gaspé Peninsula. It was my first visit to Montreal and I was intrigued by its lovely waterfront, underground city and how the former Expo site has been transformed into a museum/recreation area. Quebec City is a real gem; more authentically French than Montreal. But I was most charmed by Perce, famous for a landmark rock located in its harbor. This town is wonderful for walking. It has a nice pier, lovely little shops to poke around in and some extremely good restaurants (Gargantua for one) that are quite excellent despite the town's small size.

Here I had my first whale-watching experience, as the massive mammals migrate past this point twice a year. Somehow all of my pictures are of humps and flukes, but it was still exciting. Oh yes, it rained in Perce.

**July:** Actually, no real travel except on our boat. Most enjoyable.

**August:** Some trips were unplanned... seemed I was the only one available to help my daughter drive back to the University of Texas, towing her car behind a van packed with furniture. En route to Austin, we decided to check out Hot Springs, Ark. It's an old town full of those big bath houses that go back to the turn of the century when "taking the waters" was all the fad. They are

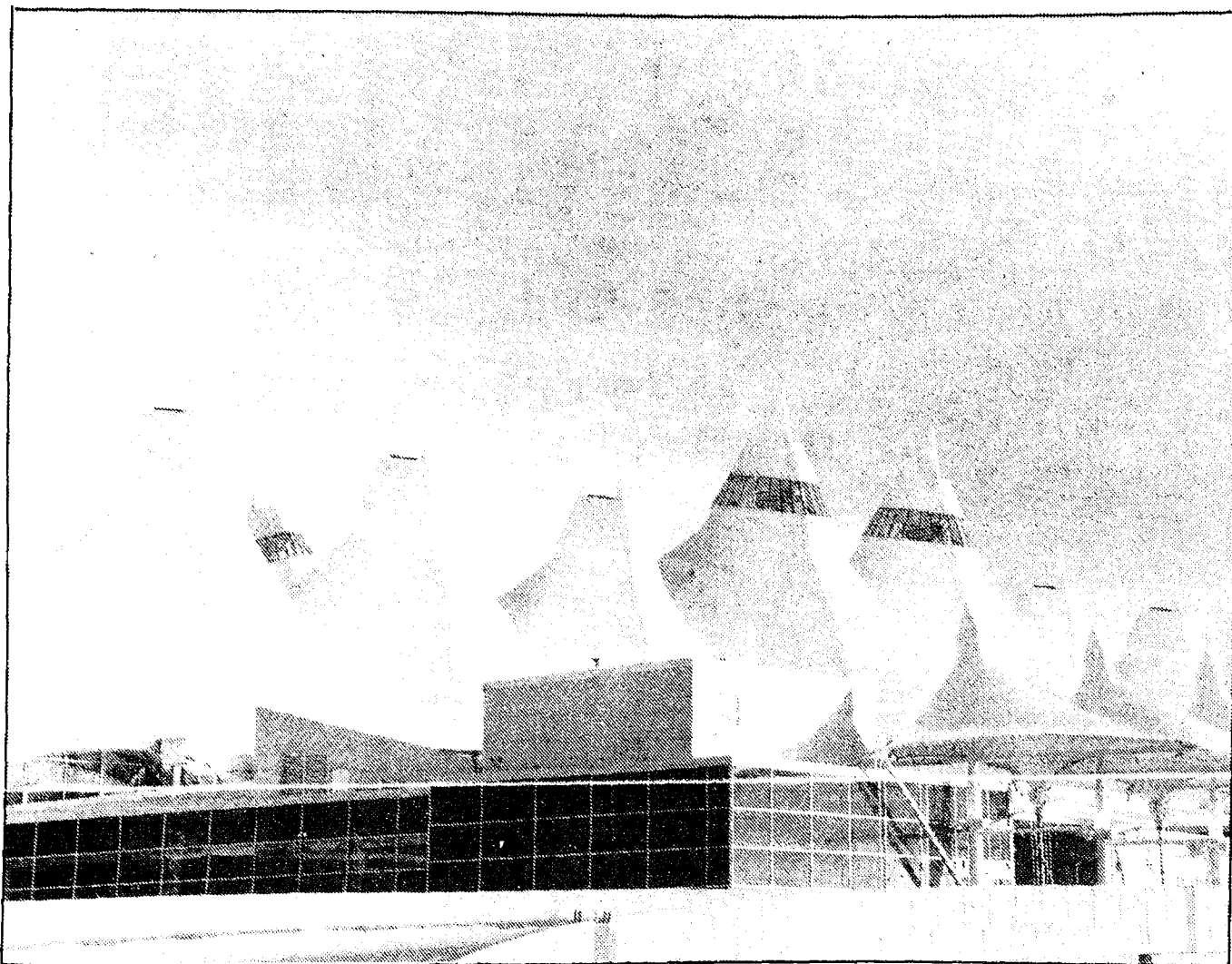
being restored, one by one, and tourism continues to grow. The surrounding country is lovely and the great hotels here really do hark back to another era.

Returned home just in time to be sent on assignment by Midwest Living magazine to research bed-and-breakfasts in northern Ohio. Came across a lovely restored manor in Huron, called Capt. Montague's. A perfect romantic getaway, open year around. Leave the kiddies at home. Your hosts are Judy and Mike Tann. (800) 276-4756.

**September:** What a month. Chet and I had a busy two weeks in Europe. In London, we were gratified to find the perfect place to stay: a restored townhouse called the Pembroke Court Hotel. It had just 20 rooms and a couple of ginger cats named Spencer and Churchill who made us feel right at home. It was just a block's walk from the Nottinghill Gate tube station. Phone 011-44-71-229-9977.

Then onto Paris, for a whirl of touring before we met up with our friends, Dave and Stevi Kranker. We all embarked on a week-long barge cruise on the Burgundy canal in central France. Our ship was the Nenuphar, with just six

See TRAVEL, page 9B



Cynthia wanted to go to Denver to check out the new airport, but alas, it still isn't to be.



A trip to Montreal should include the incredible underground malls and shopping areas.



While in Australia, Cynthia got up close and personal with a sleepy koala bear.

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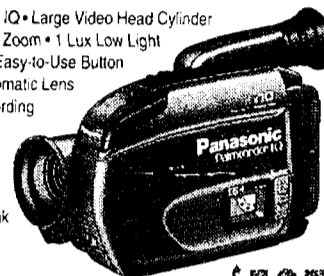
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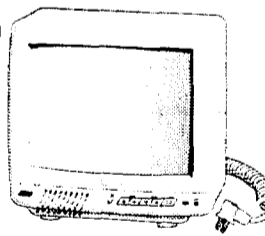
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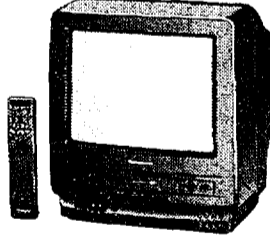
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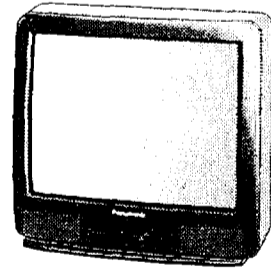
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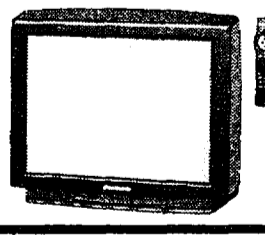
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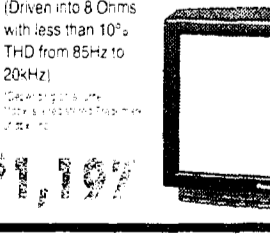
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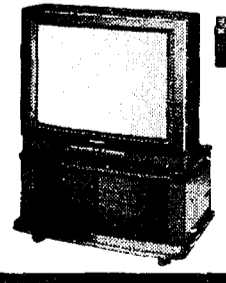
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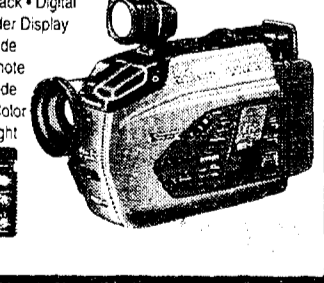
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