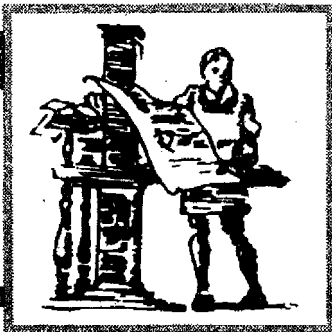


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The Community Crier

The Newspaper with Its Heart in The Plymouth-Canton, MI Community

Vol. 24 No. 26

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July 30, 1997

7-30-97
Sign of things to come

As the Plymouth Whalers hosted a hockey camp inside Compuware Arena, workers outside put the finishing touches on a new sign and message board facing Beck Road. For the story on the camp, please see the Sports Pages, 27-28. (Crier photo, R. Alwood Jr.)



Schools seek sanctions against bond suit plaintiffs

BY BRYON MARTIN

Delays in the sale of their March 22 bond have cost Plymouth-Canton Schools time and more than \$600,000 in lost interest, according to Superintendent Charles Little.

Such losses moved Little and the P-C District to file papers in Wayne County Circuit Court Friday, charging plaintiff Jerry Vorva and his lawyer Stephen Boak with filing a frivolous lawsuit.

The request seeks sanctions against Vorva and Boak, as well as reimbursement for all costs and attorney's fees incurred by the board, estimated around \$15,000, according to the district.

According to Little, the district loses \$11,400 in interest on the bonds every day the suit continues. "We've lost a huge

amount of money already," he said.

Also held up by the suit, he said, is the purchase of a site for the elementary school to be built by the bond. "We have a very attractive site in Canton. Our lawyers are working quietly with their lawyers."

Both Vorva and Boak disagreed with Little's comments, saying that if the lawsuit were frivolous, it would have been thrown out by District Court Judge Rashid, who will consider the request Aug. 21.

Further, Vorva called the \$600,000 figure cited by Little and the district "very misleading. That's typical of what they've done," so far.

Of the district's request for sanctions, Boak said, "We've heard that before and we've not succumbed to thinly or non veiled threats."

Weekend brings national archery tourney to Canton

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

Archery is coming to town this weekend and local businesses couldn't be happier.

Hotels, retailers and restaurants are gearing up for the arrival of more than 500 archers, their families, friends and fans, according to Carleigh Flaherty, executive director of the Canton Chamber of Commerce.

"Everything is coming along pretty well," she said. "We're in the final details of preparation now."

The Canton Chamber has been working closely with the National Archery Association (NAA), Township officials, and Tom Green, the U.S. National Target Championship

Tournament director, Flaherty said.

"We're going to have a hospitality booth set up in the main tent at Heritage Park. We're going to pass out menus for local restaurants so visitors can know exactly what restaurants fit their taste," she said.

Hotels, retailers and restaurants are gearing up for the arrival of more than 500 archers, their families, friends and fans.

Other items the chamber will pass out to make Canton more visitor-friendly include a dining guide and maps with banks with ATM machines and places of recreation listed.

"We'll show them where other parks are where they can find movie theaters, bowling alleys, anything they may want to do," Flaherty said.

Some international competitors have
Please see pg. 3

Field of beans, buckshot

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

It was like something out of an old western: a grizzled old farmer, shotgun in hand, protecting his property.

Except this farmer wasn't fighting cattle barons or outlaws. His shotgun was aimed at tractors and developers.

Tractors and land movers were sitting on a 40 acre section of land at the corner of Denton and Proctor ready to turn bean fields into soccer fields.

The only problem was, they didn't tell Dennis Wilkins, who claims he has an

agreement to farm the land.

Out came the shotgun.

Canton officials reacted quickly. Supervisor Tom Yack enacted offered to pay Wilkins for his crops under the Township's Emergency Agreement Purchasing Policy (EAPP).

"My whole thought was to avoid any kind of violence and we didn't want to hold up a \$1.5 million dollar project," he said. "We thought that he had an agreement with the developer, we would just pay him now, and figure out who was responsible later."

Please see pg. 3

Shooting Stars
Northville director's film to premiere in August
See Friends & Neighbors, pg 6

Safety series
Plymouth man produces videos on home safety
See Getting Down to Business pg.8

Close to home
Whaler players will attend PCA in the fall
See Sports pgs. 27-28

Welcome to Wayne County

Food workers and supporters picket new, non-union Busch's grocery store in Plymouth Twp.

BY BRYON MARTIN

Pickers from United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 876 have brought a message to the Busch's Valuland at Five Mile and Sheldon Roads: "you're not in Washtenaw County anymore."

Union members and supporters have been picketing outside of the store, which opened last month. Their picket signs and flyers read, "Please Shop Union, Do Not Patronize Busch's." The flyers listed unionized markets in Plymouth, Canton, Northville, Livonia and Westland.

Employees at Busch's are not organized. Their non-union jobs threaten those of the 1,673 workers represented by the UFCW at eight grocery stores in The Plymouth-Canton-Northville Community, according to Jerry Gordon, organizing director for the UFCW.

The absence of a union at Busch's, "undermines and jeopardizes good union jobs," Gordon said, because they claim a share of the market that could be served by union stores.

"But it's not just economics. Knowing that you have a job to go to, that it's yours and you can't be treated unfairly," are among the UFCW's advantages, he said. "It's infinitely better in the sense of rights and respect."

The UFCW flyers charge that workers at Busch's have, "no job protection, no senior-

ity rights and no voice in the workplace." Both Gordon and the flyer also cited an employee copay for medical benefits as a reason for unionization.

Have conditions inspired workers to seek union representation at Busch's in Plymouth Township. Busch's Spokesperson Peggy Conlin said no such requests have been made.

"If this were an internal thing we'd be right on top of it," Conlin said. "Our associates are happy. It's not like they're clamoring for representation."

'If this were an internal thing we'd be right on top of it. Our associates are happy. It's not like they're clamoring for representation.'

Peggy Conlin

Conlin said worker salaries, weekend and evening premiums are competitive with union-shop pay.

Employees working 30 hours per week and more make \$7.25 per hour, and can earn \$.50 and \$1.00 premiums for midnight and Sunday shifts, respectively.

UFCW workers at Shopping Center Market, comparable to Busch's, make \$7.50 per hour, with \$.30 midnight and \$1.00 Sunday

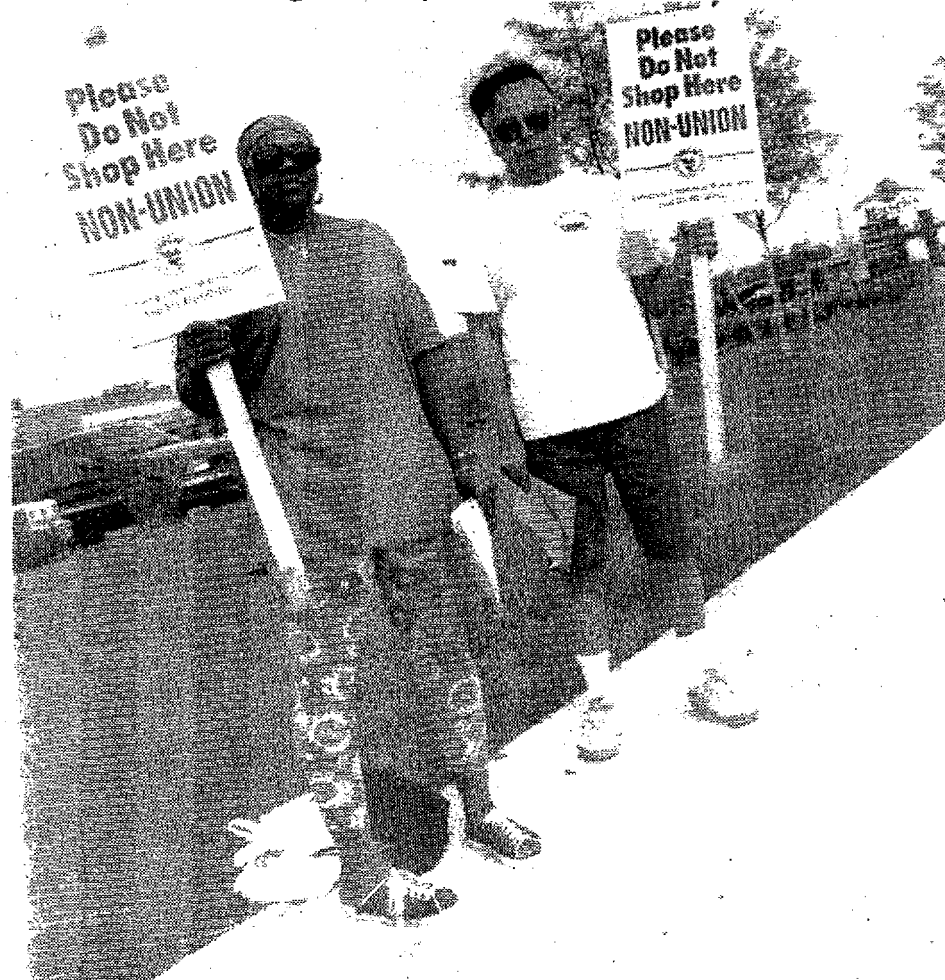
premiums. Union workers also receive employer-paid medical benefits.

Busch's medical benefits require an employee copay Conlin said, and "is fantastic. We've got as many plans as we do associates. That's not a weak link."

Conlin said that without a request for representation and considering Busch's pay scale and benefits, she had only one guess why the UFCW picketed.

"We're new to the market."

The Sheldon-Five Mile location is the first Busch's grocery store in Wayne



Mary Miles and George Kosovac began picketing last Tuesday with others outside of Busch's Valuland at the corner of Five Mile and Sheldon Roads. The United Food and Commercial Workers protested Busch's lack of a workers' union (Crier photo, R. Alwood, Jr.).

County. As such, it marks a move into an area that has traditionally had a stronger union presence than in Washtenaw, where Busch's is based.

Conlin said the picket seemed to be a reminder that the store was in a union-

strong county. "It was a pretty passive picket," she said. "They just seemed to be out there, earning their checks." Conlin summed up Busch's response to the picket by allusion: "If it ain't broke..."

Newburgh delays not all bad

Lessons from project could benefit others

BY BRYON MARTIN

It's a sticky situation at the Newburgh Lake clean-up project: plans and processes are changing and delays are likely—but that's not all bad.

"Things are progressing very slowly at this stage," Roger VanOmen, chief engineer of Wayne County Division of Public Works (DPW), said. "They're having trouble handling and getting equipment out onto the lake bed. It's very soft and squishy."

Mt. Clemens-based contractor John Carlo, Inc., is planning and executing clean-up of the lake, which has been drained of water and fish so the contaminated soil bottom can be removed. Drainage was complete last month and workers are removing the soil now.

This process, however, has proven more difficult as the project has progressed, according to VanOmen. New approaches to removing the mucky soil have been necessary.

Temporary roads had been built at the site to get heavy equipment out on the lake bed. This was quickly found to be costly and inefficient, VanOmen said. A fixed

project budget forced the change in tactics.

"It looks like we're going to switch to using hydraulic dredges," he said. The contaminated soil would be sucked away from the bed and dried, then hauled to a dump.

Even with the change in plans, delays to the July 1, 1998 completion date seem inevitable, according to VanOmen.

"Next summer's date is in jeopardy. Unless there are drastic improvements, it's unlikely we will be done then," he said.

Beyond the murkiness of the lake bed the project is complicated by a complete lack of precedence on how to proceed. "Nobody has done this before," VanOmen said.

The clean-up is a national demonstration project: funded by a federal grant, the job is being carefully documented for a paper that will be written upon completion for the benefit of similar endeavors in the future.

In that way, VanOmen said, problems are productive.

"From the standpoint of a study, problems are good. The lessons learned here won't be repeated elsewhere."

The Community Crier

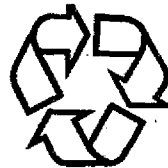
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End of an era: Julien's torn down

The white-washed building saw and held more than half a century of Canton history

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

Julien's party store was the sole inhabitant of the southwest corner of Ford and Canton Center roads for more than 50 years.

It will be remembered by many people for many different reasons: it was a place to congregate in the 70's before driving somewhere to race muscle cars, a place to work, an egg business Bob Julien ran out of the back door, and a location for the hard-to-find Guernsey dairy products that Julien's sold until the day in June when he closed the doors for good.

Julien, his father and some ex-employees were on hand Friday morning when a crane tore down the white-washed building, reducing it to a neat pile of rubble that fit into two on-site dumpsters.

"A lot of people are going to miss it," Julien said.

"It's the end of an era, there's no doubt," said Mike Rorabacher, Canton fire chief. "It's part of Canton's history. It's what Canton used to be."

Rorabacher worked for Julien's in the early 70s, when Julien's was at its most prosperous and employed 11 people.

"It was the center of town back then,"

Rorabacher said. "You either worked on a farm or you worked here. Bob put up with a lot of guff from us kids."

Canton Firefighter Bill Grady, a life-long Canton resident who worked at Julien's during the early 70s, agreed.

"It was a happening place back then. All of the Canton guys would be cruising around in Plymouth and when they saw they were running out of gas, they'd come all the way out to Bob's," Grady said.

Julien sold the property in early March to a developer for Rite Aid Pharmacy. It signaled an end to a business that had weathered many changes in fortune, including downsizing from a gas and coffee house to a convenience store do to improvements and expansions on Ford Road.

"It's the end of an era, there's no doubt. It's what Canton used to be."
Mike Rorabacher

And maybe Julien's closing signaled an end to old time "Mom and Pop" stores, too. "Bob knew every one of his customers by name, no matter how busy he was," Rorabacher said. "In these days, that's unheard of. It's kind of sad to see it go, but with the way Canton is growing, it's inevitable."

Julien agreed. "These are the types of places you'll only find out in the country," he said. "And that's where I'm moving."



Julien watches as the building that was his store is torn down (Crier photo, Scott Spielman).

Committee, School Board narrowing architect proposals

BY MATT HUCAL

Four proposals from collaborating architectural firms are in the running for contracts to design the Plymouth-Canton School District's new high school and elementary school.

According to John Birchler, executive director of business and operations for P-C schools, Fanning-Howey Associates, and Roy G. French Associates in association with Perkins and Will are the firms competing for the high school job.

Persuing the elementary school project are Wakeley Associates and Coquillard-Dundon-Peterson-Argenta.

According to Birchler a these firms were selected from 13 proposals originally submitted.

A committee, made up of two teachers, two principals and two district administrators, will hold a workshop August 11 to choose firms for the jobs. The committee will present its choice to the school board, who are tentatively scheduled to make their

final selection August 12.

Sitting on the committee are: Dan Coogan, Kari Amir, David Sutherland of Canton High School, PCEA President Chuck Portelli, principals Patricia Patton of Canton High School and Peggie Brooks of Allen Elementary School, and administrators Birchler and Dan Menghini, Director of Maintenance and Operations.

Both construction projects would be funded the \$80 million March bond.

Flap over Canton field like old west

Continued from pg. 1

That's when things turned a little tricky. Funds approved through the EAPP still have to go before the Township Board for approval, Yack said. Canton's attorneys could find no legal lease that Wilkins had for the land, and advised the Township not to pay.

Phoenix developments also said they had no agreement with Wilkins.

Wilkins claimed he had a verbal agreement with Canton Parks and Rec.

Superintendent Mike Gouinto allow the land as a soccer complex.

...a grizzled old farmer, shotgun in hand, protecting his property.

Wilkins said he was concerned that he would lose the crops and have nothing to show because the agreement was verbal, and

not written.

"They've been taking my money and telling me to farm the land. Now I've got crops going, and I just want to make sure I get my money out of them," Wilkins said.

Yack said he was hoping to solve the problem as expediently as possible.

"I just wish all three parties, Denny, Phoenix developers, and the Township could all sit down in one room and figure this out in a friendly way. But I don't think that's going to happen."

Canton businesses prepare for crowd of archers and others

Continued from pg. 1

arrived already, she said, and could begin practicing as early as tomorrow.

The tournament will begin with early competitions Aug. 2. Official registration day is Sunday and a week of intensive competition starts Monday, according to Flaherty.

That's a whole week's worth of added

business for local merchants.

"The retailers and restaurants will definitely benefit from the tournament. It's not just the competitors, but they'll bring their families and friends, and archery fans. They'll all need lunch throughout the week," Flaherty said.

She also said she hopes with the extra effort local business and government offi-

cials are giving, the tournament will find a permanent home in Canton.

"We'll find out at the end of the week if they decide to return. If they do, it will be for two years, and we think we can encourage them to make Canton a long-term home," Flaherty said.

"It's been a major undertaking, but it certainly has been fun."

Agenda

THIS WEEK

- Today at noon in Kellogg Park, Mulligan Stew will play a mix of Celtic, folk, Irish and country music. Free.
- Watercolor paintings are on sale now at the Plymouth Community Arts Council's Floral Art Show, Monday through Friday until August 31. Refreshments are served, too. Call the Council at 455-4681 for show times.
- Thursday, "Dinner Out" in Hamtramk with the Northville Senior Citizens Center: N'ville Parks & Rec. bus will leave MAGS at 4 p.m., home pick-up at 3:30. Registration, (810) 349-4140.

THIS WEEKEND

- Friday and Saturday Plymouth's sidewalk sales run from 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. throughout downtown Plymouth. A variety of the City's shops will be featured. For info., call the chamber at 453-1540.

NEXT WEEK

- Monday is the deadline for rental applications in the Canton Historical Society 3rd annual flea market sale, Saturday, Aug. 16. \$15 rents a 15'x15' space. Call the society at (313) 981-1475 for sale details.

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You know that businesses in P-C-N have to stay technologically current, but who can help you do that? Find out in Business to Business, pgs. 12-20

'Squabble city' History's lesson about rebuilding courthouse

BY RUSS FRANZEN

A beacon of tragedy was visible for many miles as thick smoke and an orange glow dominated the previously dark mid-week sky. Soon, the building was nothing but embers and ashes.

The courthouse was gone.

The community was left to decide whether to rebuild on the existing site or somewhere else. Prominent members of the district were involved in the decision-making process.

The stakes were high. There was prestige in having the courthouse in your town. Not to mention the effect a court-

house has on property values and development.

The district's politicians fought over the courthouse placement for a long time, which was silly, since there was already an existing, commonly-owned and perfectly good courthouse site.

The "Court House War," as it became known, finally ended when one township supervisor took the issue to the Michigan legislature and, while publicly holding one position, engineered a back room legislative end run that resulted in the courthouse being built in his area.

The story is true.

It isn't in The Plymouth-Canton-Northville Community, it was set in Lapeer County, the story of the Court House War of 1836-47. The story holds an important lesson as this community decides the location of the rebuilt Dunbar Davis Hall of Justice.

The Court House War was all about politics. Democrats owned most of the land in Lapeer's Lower Village. After two years of political shenanigans, they promised, in 1838, to build a courthouse at their own expense and donate it to the county. They got the contract, but before the ink was dry, they changed their minds and tried to stick taxpayers with the bill.

The Whigs did what they could, but legal recourse was tough in a county where all the public officers were Democrats and the local judge was in on the fix. All they could hold onto was the state law saying the only way to raise money for public buildings was by a direct vote of the people.

The courthouse fire changed everything. The Whigs were allowed to build and donate their courthouse on land in the Upper Village.

The Democrats next real chance to change things came in early 1846, when the major Lower Village landowner, Lapeer Township Supervisor and State Senator Alvin Hart, asked a fellow senator to introduce legislation requiring court to be held in the Lower Village. The Whigs saw the legislation as Hart's handiwork and organized to fight it.

With the Whigs distracted, another of Hart's pals intro-

duced a bill to allow boards of Supervisors to raise taxes to pay for county buildings. This bill stopped for a few hours in a committee chaired by Hart, but saw no obstacles on its way to passage in both houses. The process only took a few days. As chairman of Board of Supervisors, Hart was now able to control the location of the courthouse.

One year later, newly-elected Judge Alvin Hart held court in the newly built and newly financed Lower Village Court House, even though the county owned the donated courthouse in the Upper Village.

The lesson of "Squabble City," as Lapeer became known, is how easy it is to get caught up in the politics of the situation and lost sight of the reason we have a district court in the first place.

The district court is still the "People's Court," where we can fight a speeding ticket or get relief from a mechanic who takes us for a ride. But the person who cannot fight a ticket because the court is too far away to get to in a reasonable amount of time has lost their access to justice. In short, equal justice

includes equal access.

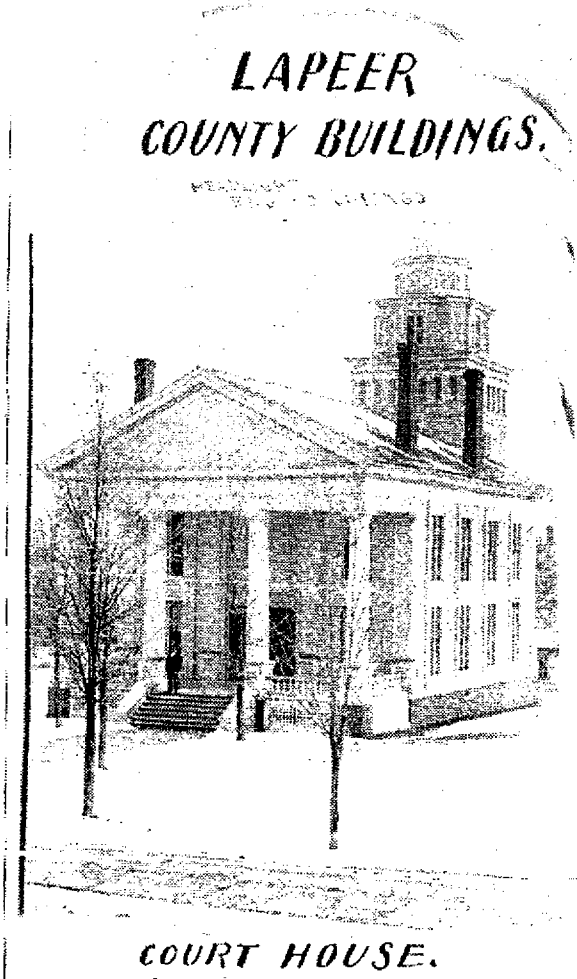
In this, as in any dispute, it is important to turn to a person everyone can trust to ignore the politics, look at all sides and give an objective opinion. The P-C-N Community is lucky to have retired 35th District Judge James Garber to turn to (He has agreed to head up the court rebuilding effort). His presence in this crisis should also help take some of the pressure off 35th District Judges John MacDonald and Ronald Lowe, allowing them to continue operating the court and dispensing equal justice during the search for a permanent courthouse.

It serves us well if P-C-N decision-makers remember the lessons history so graciously teaches. The economic stakes associated with rebuilding a courthouse are still high — high enough to produce some political slight of hand.

Sure, it's unlucky, but the possibility will, at least, enliven discussions at local coffee shops and watering holes and anywhere serious political issues are discussed.

(Russ Franzen, of Plymouth Township, is author of *Squabble City, the Story of the Court House War*. He is also Court Administrator of the 34th District Court in Romulus.)

It serves us well if P-C-N decision-makers remember the lessons history so graciously teaches. The economic stakes associated with rebuilding a courthouse are still high.



Break leads Canton PD to young alleged thieves

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

Canton Police arrested four 15-year old youths they believe are responsible for a string of larcenies in several Canton subdivisions last month.

The youths confessed many more larcenies in Canton and Plymouth, including Mayflower, Sunflower and Holiday Park subdivisions as well as Stoneybrooke and Canton Crossings apartment complexes, according to Canton Police officer Mike Steckel.

"It's hard to say how many they may be responsible for until we get all of the information together," said Canton Sgt. Eddie Tanner. "We have one kid saying 30 or 40, another saying 300. The problem with those numbers is that we've been tracking them, and we don't have that many."

"We've been after these guys for a while," Steckel said. "We just didn't know they were juveniles."

The break came when Steckel, Canton's

Youth Liason officer, started talking to children in the subdivision to see if they knew what was going on, Steckel said.

"The first kid I talked to was from Westland," he said. "It didn't make sense that he was from Westland but walking around a Canton subdivision, so I asked him why he was in Canton. He said he was spending the night at a friend's house."

"He told me the friend's name and when I talked to the friend, he seemed really nervous."

The second boy gave Steckel yet another name, and Steckel found all of the property of the previous nights larcenies at the resi-

dence, he said.

The fourth suspect was caught in the act of taking something from a car two days later, according to Steckel.

"A homeowner caught him in the act and tackled him," he said.

Two of the suspects lived in Canton, one lived in Plymouth, and one in Westland, Steckel said. All were about 15 years old.

The youths would take turn sleeping at each others houses and sneak out of the house after the parents went to sleep, according to Steckel. Then they would wander around, allegedly stealing items from unlocked cars.

The youths allegedly took everything from CDs and cellular phones to golf clubs, Steckel said. Although some of the items stolen were recovered, much of it was not.

"They must have fenced it somewhere," Steckel said, "but we're still working on that part of it."

The youths are being charged locally under with larceny from a motor vehicle, according Tanner.

"It gives us more control over the case," Tanner said. "It's easier on the victim and on the defendant's parents."

Due to vague descriptions, Steckel said police are having a hard time finding homes for all of the stolen property.

"Someone may have told us that someone stole a set of golf clubs. Well, we found four sets. We just don't know which set goes to who."

Victims wishing to reclaim stolen property can call Brenda Luke, Canton's property officer, at 397-5343.

'We've been after these guys for a while, we just didn't know they were juveniles.'

Ofc. Mike Steckel



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Friends & neighbors

Neighbors in the news

Carlos Bermudez, of Canton and **John Cullen** of Plymouth were invited to join Wayne State University's Phi Beta Kappa chapter.

Phi Beta Kappa is open to students in the top 10 percent of their class and have academic records that reflect the broad liberal arts and science spirit.

Steven Decker of Plymouth was named to the Dean's List at Iowa State University.

Decker is majoring in Meteorology.

The following students were named to the Dean's list for the winter term 1997 at the University of Michigan College of Engineering. From Canton: **Matthew Abbot, Uzmaa Balbale, Michael Chappell, Jennifer Gawlik, Daniel Grube, Andrew Hoisington, Harry Lee, Marcus Sarkesian, Bradley Sprecher, Rebecca Steinhebel, Elaine Wisniewski, and Nick Yang**; from Northville: **Joseph Allen, Kevin Becker, Aaron Frankel, Amity Heckemeyer, Michelle Lorenz, Steven Moore, Srinidhi Nagaraja, Maxwell Sprauer, and Benjamin Zumbrennen**; and from Plymouth: **Theodore Betley, Benjamin Grover, Aaron Leanhardt, Jennifer Ma, Dawn Marrocco, Jennifer Mumfakh, Alison Nemier, Christopher Pratt, Mark Reed, Neelesh Varde, Angela Zaetta.**

The following students have been named to the Dean's List for the winter semester 1997 at the University of Dayton. From Canton: **Graig Bellomo**; from Northville: **Jill Heathcock, Elizabeth Rivard**; and from Plymouth: **Kathleen Dankert, Elizabeth Lemkuhl, and Amy Stidwell.**

Jennifer Kuchera from Canton and **Amanda Humphrey** from Plymouth have been named to the Dean's list at Adrian College.

Kuchera is a junior majoring in psychology. Humphrey is a freshman majoring in art. Her work can be seen in The Crier, including the cover for the upcoming Fall Fest edition.

Marine Lance Cpl. **James P. Altmann**, son of **Ruth A. Altmann** of Canton, recently returned to Camp Lejeune, N.C. after a six-month deployment to the Mediterranean Sea.

Altmann helped in the evacuation of civilians from Albania after the U.S. State Department decided that the civil unrest situation had worsened.

Who needs Hollywood?

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

Making an independent film is a lengthy process, but the rewards are worth it, says 30-year old Ken Guertin of Northville. And he ought to know.

His first full length feature film, "The Incorporated," will debut at the Millennium Theatre in Southfield in two weeks.

The film, shot entirely in Michigan, with a Michigan cast, was sold in 33 countries but has yet to achieve domestic distribution. It is the culmination of more than 18 months work, said writer/director Guertin.

"We spent the first year just raising money," Guertin said. "We would call people, state our case, and they'd say they weren't interested."

Potential investors were scared off by the rocky reputation of Michigan films, Guertin said.

"A lot of people say they are going to make movies but never do. Once we started, and had something on tape to show them, the process was easier."

Then Guertin had to fill in cast and crew. The last roadblock was finding the director of photography.

With most of Michigan's video production focused in the commercial and industrial areas, Guertin had a hard time finding someone who could commit to a large block of time.

Guertin then heard about Robin Browne of Bloomfield Hills, who had earned acclaim as director of photography in more than 70 productions, including James Bond movies, Gorillas in the Mist, Gandhi and A Passage to India.

They'd found their Director of Photography.

"We got lucky. We went from thinking we weren't going to be able to find one to sitting in a huge house, drinking english coffee and talking about Sigourney Weaver and 007 within the span of three hours."

Once the cast and crew were in place Guertin set aside 90 days to film the movie, a tense, action drama about corporate



Director Ken Guertin and producer Dave Baker pose in front of Emmy Award their company, Make Believe Productions, won for a commercial. (Crier photo, Scott Spielman)

espionage and intrigue. The temptation in making a first movie is something that can be shot cheaply, such as is sometimes done in art films.

"It wasn't an easy sell. A lot of Michigan films don't do well because the people making them are making them for themselves. They throw in violence and sex scenes. We think we can make movies people will enjoy without those things."

"We want to make movies everyone will enjoy," Guertin said, "not just writers or ourselves. This will please a much bigger audience than that."

"The Incorporated" premieres at the Millennium Theater Center in Southfield Aug. 14. The first public showing is at 9:30 p.m.

Spanish teen gets taste of the States

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

When Maria Vivancos Albentosa flies home next week, she'll be taking more than a recipe for chocolate chip cookies.

Albentosa, 16, of Murcia, Spain, spent a month in Canton as part of a cultural exchange program learning the differences and similarities of America and Spain.

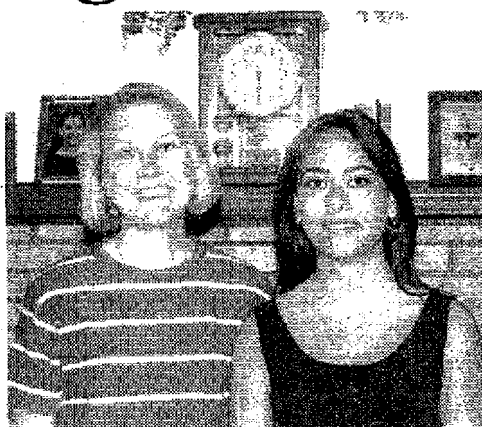
"It's basically the same," she said. "There are little differences. Little things like food. And most teenagers in Spain don't work. You can find teenagers in Spain that work, but it's not the rule."

Other differences include living in an area as spread out as Metro Detroit compared to the smaller coastal town of Murcia.

"We walk everywhere in Murcia," Albentosa said. "There's no way you could walk anywhere here. Everything is so far away."

Albentosa has been staying with the Holderack family in Canton, part of the Nasel Open Door Program for high school students, according to Marnie Holderack.

"It's a one-month cultural exchange. She's not here to go to school, just participate in a normal family," Holderack said. "Although I'm not sure you could call us a normal family," she joked.



Marnie Holderack and her Spanish house guest Maria Vivancos Albentosa. Maria spent a month in Canton and its environs as part of a cultural exchange program (Crier photo, Scott Spielman).

Holderack has taken Maria everywhere from canoeing in Ann Arbor to movies to Canada, and sampled all types of ethnic foods, including chocolate chip cookies.

"It's been a lot of fun," Holderack said. "It's a shame more families don't take advantage of the program."

Holderack said she learned of the program late, and by the time the family had filled out the questionnaire and been accepted, there was barely time to express

mail some pictures and information about the family to Maria in Spain.

Too little time, as it turned out.

"It didn't arrive there until a week after she got here," Holderack laughed. "The poor thing didn't know a thing about us until she got off the plane."

This is not Albentosa's first trip abroad, she said. She also spent a month with a family in Ireland.

"It's the best way to learn a language. We have language school every day, but the teachers are British. There are 30 people in the class and you can't really practice your English," she said. "Also, there are things you can't learn in school, like slang."

Michigan has held some surprises for Albentosa. "Most people in Europe think America is fast food. People only eat hamburgers and hot dogs. I was surprised that the diet is so good."

Knowledge of similarities will be another thing Albentosa brings home with her, she said.

"It's good to see people around the world are more the same than they are different," she said. "People around the world are basically the same, customs are different and thinking is different, but the people are basically the same."

Things are happening in the community!

PLYMOUTH

— August —

- 1 & 2: Sidewalk Sale
 1,8,15,22: Music on the Street
 2,9,16,23,30: Farmers Market
 6,13,20: Music in the Park

— September —

- 5,6 & 7: Fall Festival
 6 & 7: PCAC Arts & Crafts Show
 13,20,27: Farmers Market
 9: Chamber Golf Outing
 26,27,28: Artrageous Gallery Walk



August
1

CANTON

— August —

- 15: Canton Chamber Golf Outing

— September —

- 1: Labor Day-
 Government Offices Closed
 11: Summit on the Park
 program registration, 6:00p.m.
 Call 397-5110
 13: Summit on the Park
 registration, 8:00 a.m.
 Call 397-5110
 17: Fall Open House for
 Senior Classes & Programs.
 Call 397-5444
 17: Medical Health Screening for
 Seniors, Summit on the Park,
 1-4:00 p.m. Call 397-5444

August
15

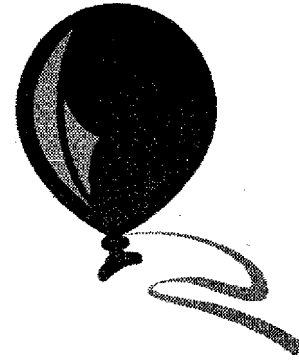
NORTHVILLE

— August —

- Farmers Market, Every Thursday thru October

— September —

- 12-14: Victorian Festival
 26 & 27: Tivoli Fair

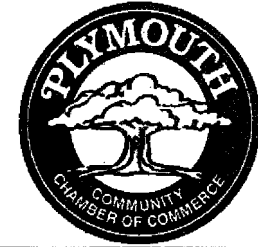


Sept.
12

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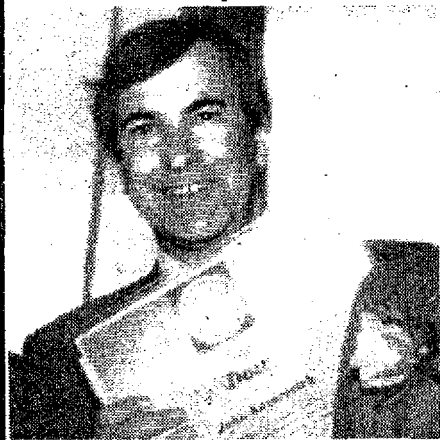
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Getting down to business

Neighbors in business

Plymouth Chamber of Commerce Downtown Merchants presents the **Plymouth Sidewalk Sales** Friday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. A wide variety of unique shops and galleries will offer special discounts and bargains in downtown Plymouth.



JOHN KOZAREVICH

John Kozarevich of Northville was honored by Detroit Edison as a 1996 winner of their Alex Dow Award.

The award is presented to employees and retirees for outstanding accomplishments in company operations or the utility industry or for outstanding humanitarian achievements.

Kozarevich and two others were recognized for a proposal to install equipment on 120-kilovolt power lines that improves electric service reliability and saves money.

Plymouth Chamber of Commerce is offering **Plymouth Gift Certificates** — good at over 40 businesses and eateries around the area. They're available at the chamber office year round.

Participating shops and retail stores: Art Perspectives, Bloomsbury Lane, Carlson Travel/Wagonlit Travel, Christine's Hallmark, Creative Framing and Gallery, Crystal Diamond Setters, Days Gone By, Delta Diamond Setters, Engraving Connection, Frame Works, Francis Jewelers Gabriela's, Georgia's Gift Gallery, Grunwald's House of Fudge, Hands On Leather, Healthways of Plymouth, Minerva's-Dunning's, Michigan Made, Inc., Native West-Unique American Southwest Art, Nawrot-Pendleton Shop, Pied Piper, Plymouth Beauty Supply, Plymouth Marketplace, sideways, inc., Sunny J's Lingerie & Bras, Tanfaster, Unique Accessories, Vanessa's Flowers and Wild Wings Gallery.

Participating restaurants: Cafe Bon Homme, Mayflower Hotel, McMahan's Side Street Pub, Papa Ramano's Tavern, Station 885, The Plymouth Landing, Uncle Frank's Chicago's & Cones and Water Club Grill.

Saving lives with video

Plymouth man produces home safety series

BY MATT HUCAL

Safety around the household is one of the most important aspects of family life. The knowledge to deal with emergencies and dangerous situations can mean the difference between life and death.

To promote home safety, John Zylka of Plymouth has produced a series of family videos that are meant to educate people when it comes to these situations.

The videos — Home Emergencies; Making Your House Safe for Children; Safe Babysitting — were reviewed and approved by the National Safety Council.

Zylka's company — Safetytech — cooperated with a Plymouth production company, Communicore, in the making of the videos. But Zylka outlined what the videos would consist of, wrote, produced and hosted them by himself.

"The absolute goal with this series is to save lives and prevent accidents," Zylka said. "Many people don't review safety procedures until after an accident, so we let people know that we've been to

accidents and know what can happen."

Zylka is the sole employee at Safetytech, a home safety consulting service he developed after he moved to Plymouth

Along with producing the videos, Safetytech provides public education and works with families to make their houses firesafe.

About the growth of his

most comprehensive series ever produced on the subject of home safety.

The video series are now available in catalogs and through the internet. Zylka said he expects to hear answers soon whether various chain stores — Blockbuster, K-Mart, Lowe's etc. — will have them available for sale.

Zylka said his experiences with the fire department helped influence him in producing the series.

One incident while he was with the department was at 4 a.m. in the morning, it was very cold, and a home was set afire by an arsonist.

He was the first at the scene and said finding the bodies of trapped people was very troubling.

Without the help of Communicore, the Farmington Hills Fire Department and Chief Richard Marinucci, Zylka said the videos would not have been made.

"You definitely get a hometown feel with these videos," Zylka said.

Reach Safetytech on the internet at www.safetytech.com or call 1-800-723-3637.



Plymouth's John Zylka at the Plymouth production company — Communicore Visual Communications — with his new videos on home safety. The series cover child safety, babysitting and home emergencies. Two more videos are now in the works.

from Farmington Hills two years ago.

He had worked for the Farmington Hills Fire Department as a firefighter and paramedic for seven years before the move.

company, Zylka said, "We've turned the corner and these videos will be our thrust."

Zylka said he expects the videos to receive exposure in national publications and that it is being called the finest and

Chamber's volunteer of the year

BY MATT HUCAL

Bob Seestadt was awarded the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce Volunteer of the Year award Thursday.

Main Street.

"Bob's come and helped us with everything we needed done," chamber Executive Director Fran Toney said. "He's very positive, upbeat and always smiling. When Bob says he'll do something, he does it right. He's an excellent chamber member."



(L to R) Chamber Executive Director Fran Toney, NBD vice president Bob Seestadt and Peoples State Bank's Margaret Slezak at Seestadt's award presentation. (Crier photo, R. Alwood Jr.)

The special celebration was held in the early morning in the chamber office on

from there. Seestadt is the chamber's president-

elect, but he said that his work will more or less remain the same.

Among Seestadt's accomplishments is his work on Showcase Plymouth. He's

'He's very positive, upbeat and always smiling...an excellent chamber member.'

Fran Toney

helped make the annual business exposition, which hosted about 600 people this year, a success in recent years.

The Volunteer-of-the-Year is also on the Small Business Committee, and is co-chairing the chamber's annual auction on November 7 at the Laurel Manor.

About his future chamber presidency, Seestadt said, "I'm really excited about working with Fran Toney and the rest of the chamber board of directors."

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(PHM)
The Plymouth Historical Museum
Beth Stewart, 313/455-8940

(PCAC)
Plymouth Community Arts Council
Jennifer Tobin, 313/416-4ART

(PSS)
Plymouth Symphony Society
Bonnie Holyoak, 313/451-2112

(CHS)
Canton Historical Society
Bonnie Berg, 313/495-0811

(VPG)
Village Potters Guild
Chris Darby, 313/207-8807

(NAC)
Northville Arts Commission
Kathryn Peltier, 810/449-9950

(NCTGP)
Northville Community Theatre Group Players
Cindy Bullington, N/A

(NHS)
Northville Historical Society
Diane Dupis, 248/348-1845

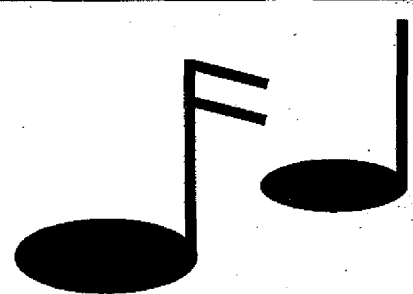
plymouth-canton-northville
ARTS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS
MONTHLY CALENDAR



august '97



3	As the summer winds down many of our groups pause to catch their breath after a rich season of arts activities.	4		5	Volunteer to help out behind the scenes in the Neil Simon play, Plaza Suite (Plymouth Theatre Guild).
10		11		12	Prepare your wares for the Artist Market in September—sign-up today! (Northville Arts Commission)
17	This fall, however, promises to bring an exciting variety of presentations and things to do!	18		19	
24	Don't miss Plymouth's Fall Festival where several groups will have demonstrations and booths.	25	(TCAC) Kick-off of our new year 7:00 p.m., Ply. Twp. Hall Interested in art, or an active artist? Come see what we're all about! (monthly—last Mon. of the month)	26	Art in Bloom is still hanging at the Plymouth Arts Council through the end of summer—it'll brighten your day!
31					



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its new office location
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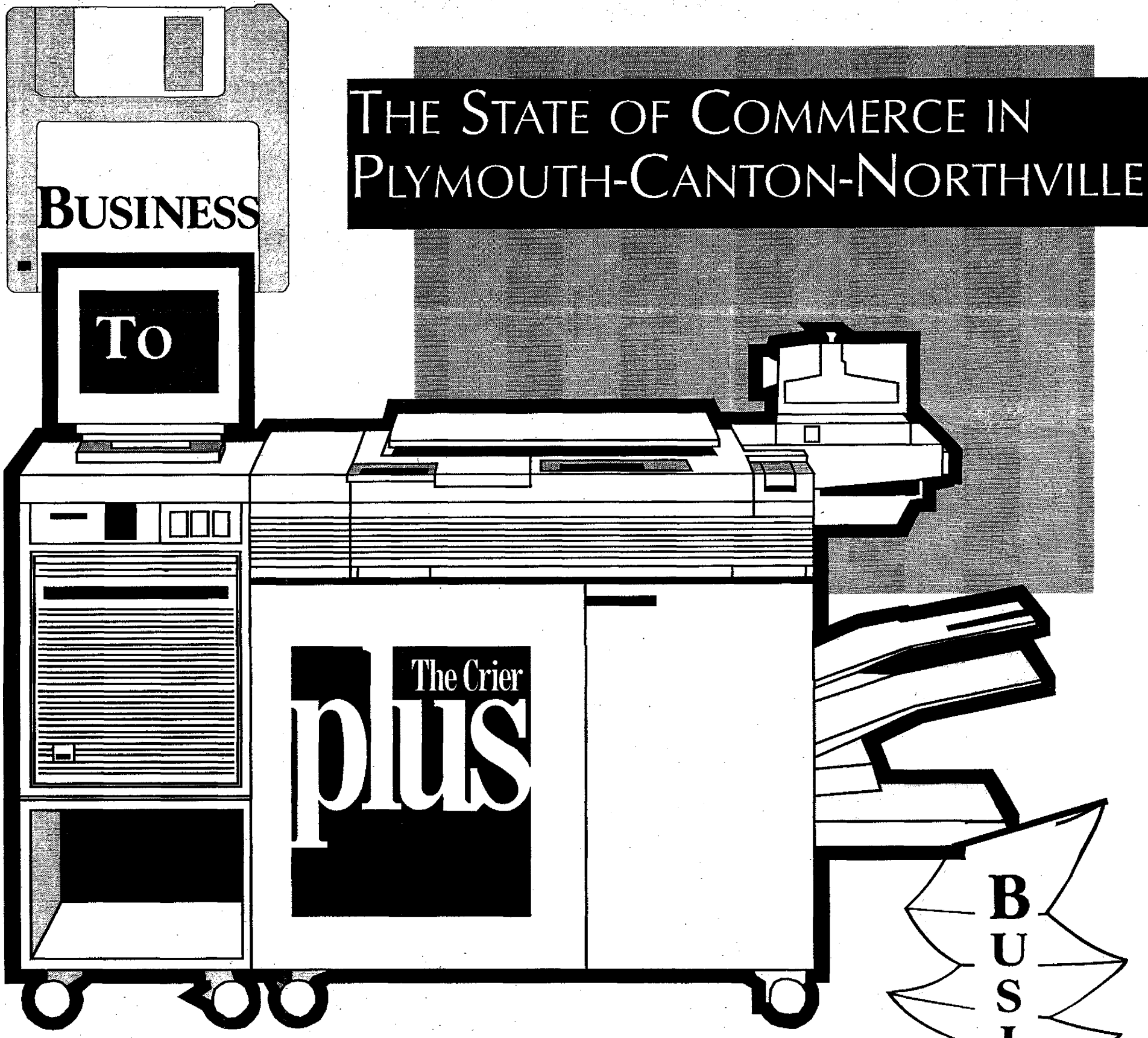
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Companies offer technical support for small businesses

Small businesses forced into the technological age to remain competitive have an ally in local firms that provide computer-related answers.

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

As increasing numbers of businesses turn to computers to remain competitive, more and more businesses are finding that they don't know the first thing about computers.

Fortunately, there are companies ready to fill the gap.

One such company, Michigan Software Services, Inc (MSSI), provides general consulting for mid-range IBM business computers, like the AS400.

"We can do whatever needs to be done with them, anything and everything you can have a problem with, we can fix," said founder and president Joe LeBlanc.

MSSI, an IBM business partner, sells hardware and provides program and technical support for larger business mainframes, LeBlanc said.

MSSI's client base includes everything from government agencies to automotive suppliers to retail store chains, LeBlanc said. Most of the technical support is answering and solving questions about transitions and upgrades.

"We get a lot of calls from people who

have problems and need technical support," LeBlanc said. "This morning I was assisting an auto supplier over the phone. He had recently upgraded his system, and it had a few hiccups in it."

LeBlanc's business, founded 11 years ago in Plymouth, recently moved to Canton. His staff fluctuates, but he generally has less than 10 employees, he said.

"We can do whatever needs to be done with them. Anything and everything you can have a problem with, we can fix."

Joe LeBlanc

MSSI can answer any questions and provide support for larger IBM business mainframes, LeBlanc said but does not offer answers for users of smaller PCs.

For that a different type of consulting company is needed, like McMaster's Business Systems (MBS) of Canton.

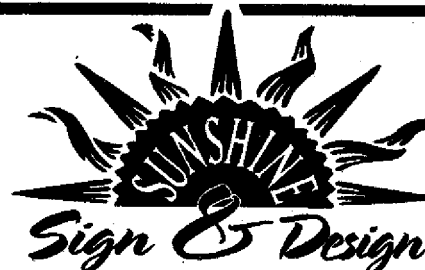
Formed in 1990

in Michael McMaster's home, MBS offers every service a budding computer-business owner might need, and some they might not have thought of.

"We deal with everything from an individual PC to computer networks of up to 100 stations," McMasters said.

McMaster's serves Gabriella's in Plymouth, the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce, and even the City of

Continued on pg. 14



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Internet can be small businesses best tool

Surfing the internet can be more than fun, it can be profitable. One Canton man turned his hobby into a budding career and now has offices in two cities

BY LINDA KOCHANEK

Surfing the Internet may be a hobby for some, but for one young entrepreneur, it has become a booming business.

Canton's 26-year-old Bradley Wardell searched for ways to make computers easier to use, and what he found was his own business.

Stardock Systems, Inc., got its start in Wardell's Western Michigan University dorm.

"I designed a game called Galactic Civilizations." He says, "I wanted a game like it, and there weren't any out there."

In order to earn extra money for college, he then sold his game to IBM, for use with their OS/2 system.

"I was in college, and I didn't have a lot of money," Wardell says. "My Web site allowed for me to market my game online without cash. No startup costs, venture capital or outside investments.

"Also most small businesses don't have the option of spending a lot of money on big marketing research. So the Internet is an inexpensive way to research the interest in your product."

Wardell's youthfulness may have been a disadvantage but with computer technology, he was open to unlimited opportunities.

"When I am on the Internet there is no prejudice. Age, gender, or where you live are not what matters."

"My generation is the first to grow up with the Internet," Wardell says. "Because of rapidly changing technologies, the small business possibilities are endless."

Profits from the sale of his game allowed him to put cash into his new business.

Stardock Systems now is a growing

Continued on pg. 11

'My generation is the first to grow up on the Internet. Because of rapidly changing technologies, the small business possibilities are endless.'

Bradley Wardell



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Local businesses provide computer answers

continued from pg. 12

Plymouth itself.

"We supplied the computers and the networking system for the City when we modernized the computer system two years ago," he said.

Solving computer problems is what the firm does, McMasters said. All kinds.

"It could be anything from a simple problem or technical questions, like what kind of fax machine do I need, or finding

out why software doesn't work," he said.

But the problems don't always start after the business buys the system, he said.

"We can design a system for a business. We'll sit down, interview the client, figure out what they want and design something for them. It may consist of changing existing software," he said.

The technological boom has provided many benefits to small businesses, which in turn has provided many benefits for

MBS, itself a small business, employing only four full-time staff and a group of subcontractors.

"Electronic faxes and email are the single most productive add-on a small business can use," McMasters said. "It produces a high rate of returns and eliminates a lot of problems, like long lines at the fax machines, misplacing fax paper and faxes.

"Businesses can fax things faster and cheaper than they could mail it."

In addition, MBS offers free telephone support, McMasters said.

"We've handled everything from harassed small-business owners to a 14-year old kid who called us and said: 'I crashed my dad's computer and he's going to kill me,'" McMasters said. "He's called more than once. I'm beginning to recognize his voice."

This kind of fast, convenient service is what makes his business so popular locally, he said.

"We're a rescue house as well as an answer man," he joked.

Increases in computer technologies that have resulted in more, but not necessarily computer literate, business owners that means MSB needs a different approach for different clients.

"The new marketplace puts a set skill requirement on us," he said. "Small business-persons have erratic needs or different budget requirements. They typically don't have deep pockets. It's a different client base.

"Because technology is spreading, companies who have never used computers have to use them," McMasters

'Because technology is spreading, companies who have never used computers have to use them. Some people are terrified of the machines, but they have to use them to be competitive.'

Michael McMasters

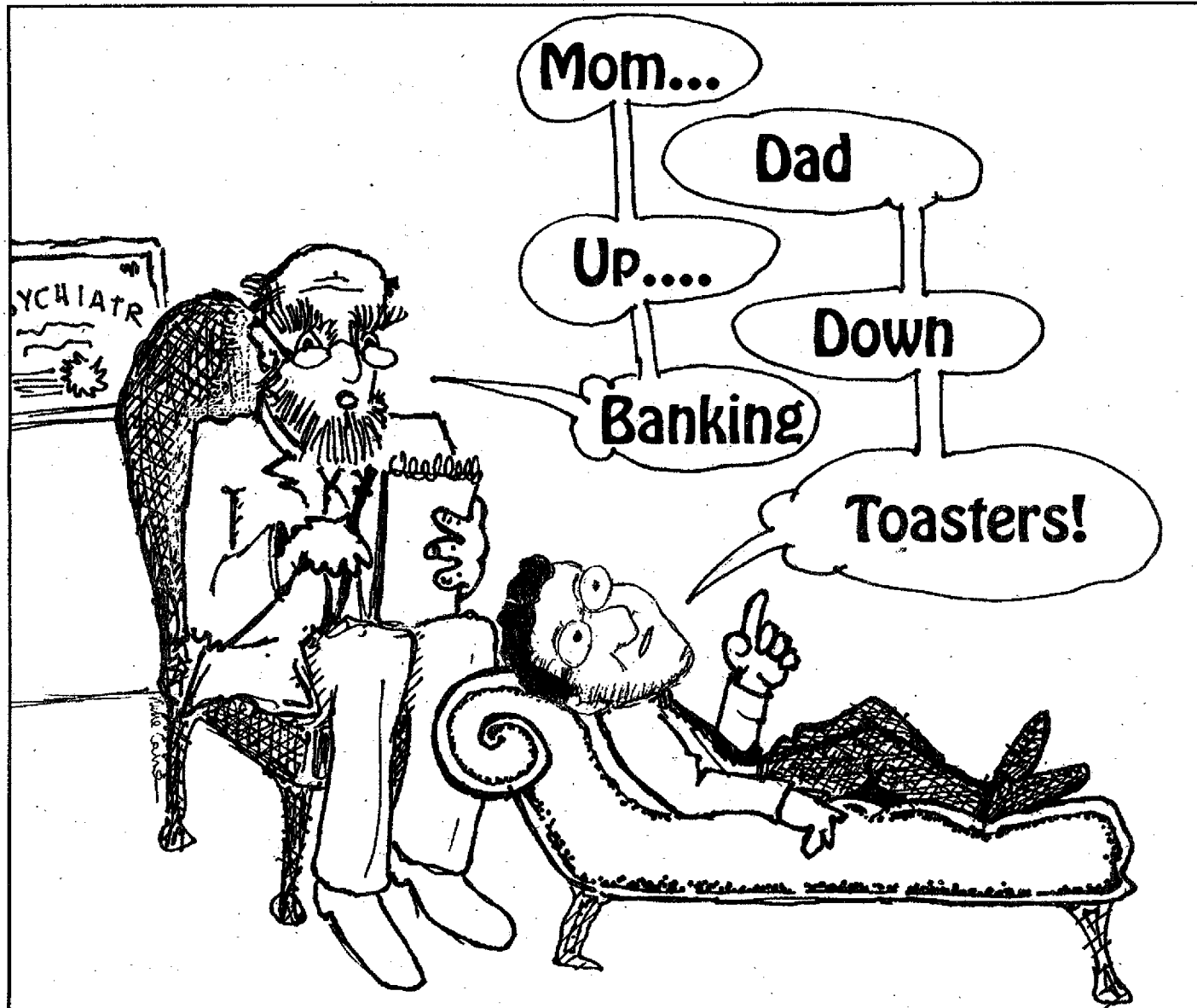
said. "Some people are terrified of the machines, but they know they have to use them to be competitive."

This is one of the reasons why McMasters offers his company's services as a paid shopping consultant, he said.

"There are so many products to choose from the process may seem overwhelming. We'll charge our flat fee, which is \$100 an hour, but if you're going to spend \$6,000 or \$7,000 and you buy the wrong machine, you've wasted a lot of money. \$100 is a small price to pay for that comfort."

McMasters is confident that providing friendly, on-site service will keep MBS in business for a long time. And he enjoys being his own boss, he said.

"It's been a challenge, but it's been good," he said. "If I want to turn it off I don't have to form a committee to talk about it for three hours. I can just do it."



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Computers bring the office home

continued from pg. 15

Commissioned design projects helped launch his in-home career, such as a CD-ROM advertising package Gordon did for the new Ford Escort ZX2.

The commission from the Ford account has helped finance Gordon's in-home office, allowing him to work from Northville.

"It was like being born blind, and then having 20/20 vision," Gordon says. "I went from living a college student's life to leaning how competitive the dog-eat-dog business world can be. It was scary."

Examples of Gordon's work are now featured in television commercials and in magazines such as Rolling Stone and Gentlemen's Quarterly.

"My dad told me to be my own boss," he says. "It is the best thing he's ever taught me."

Internet is best tool for small business

Continued from pg. 13

company with offices in Canton and Livonia. Their main focus is to make computers easier to use.

"At Stardock, we make what we would want for ourselves," Wardell says. "We design PC-Software, business applications, games, and every kind of software imaginable with a unique look and feel."

When starting a new business, Wardell says "Assume that you are going to fail, then if it takes off, you are in better shape to capitalize."



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New technologies make home offices popular

BY LINDA KOCHANEK

New technologies have made working at home a new option for many in the nineties, one that an illustrator from Northville is making the most of.

An innovative business, called 990 Silver Rabbit, Inc., is run from his small home studio by 23-year-old Matt Gordon.

"There is nothing better than working in your own surroundings," Gordon says. "Technology makes working in my studio more convenient and lets me set my own hours. I can work through the night, or take a break and ride my bike if I want to. Every day is like summer vacation."

In the illustration business computers give Gordon increased flexibility in changes to original designs or paintings, he says.

"I'm a painter at heart, but computers can take my paintings and animate them. By scanning them you can even make them into games," he says.

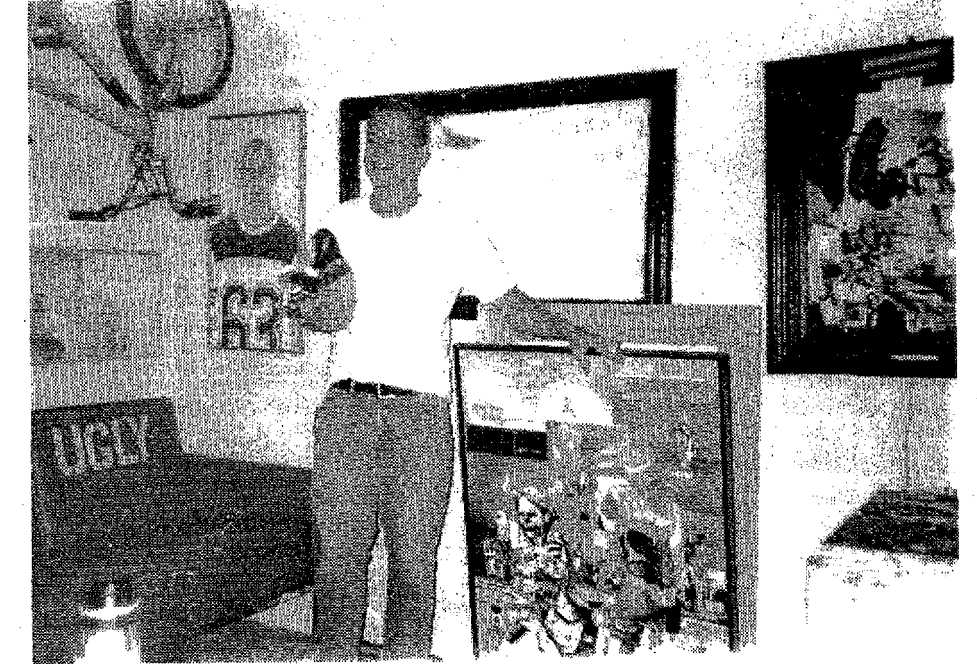
"In illustrations for publishing, computers are the wave of the future," Gordon says. "But I don't think people should totally depend on them."

He explains that even though he still uses canvas and paints, he needs to make his designs 'computer ready' for clients.

"Having E-mail and a fax machine makes it possible for me to live in Northville and do business across the country, from California to New York City," he says.

During an exhibition at the Dancing Eye Gallery in Northville, Ford executives discovered his work.

Continued on pg. 18




With equipment financed by his Ford commission, Matt Gordon finds time for more leisurely pursuits, like his passions for biking and fine painting (Crier photo, Linda Kochanek).

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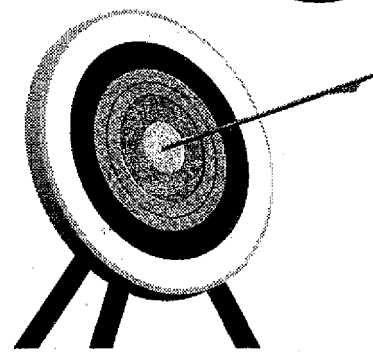
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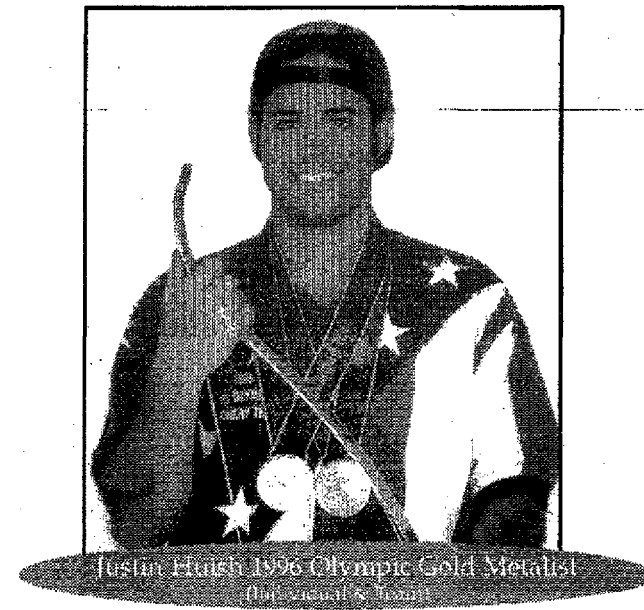
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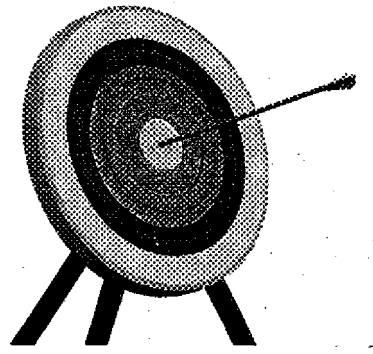
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Chamber of Commerce helps business look ahead

Businesses need look no further than their local Chamber of Commerce for advice on how to help their business find their niche in the approaching world of cyber-business.

BY MATT HUCAL

Businesses around The Plymouth-Canton-Northville Community are separate, independent and unique.

But they all have two things in common — they continually try to keep up with technological advances, and all are anchored in the community by their local Chamber of Commerce.

As technology has moved forward at a steady pace, the chamber works to help businesses keep up with the changes as we approach the millennium.

Implementation of new technologies has become a hot topic among chamber members, Canton Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Carleigh Flaharty said, adding "It has certainly become more and more the talk of the town."

Canton's chamber has held luncheons on the business advantages offered by the World Wide Web. The main highlight of the web is the amount of people exposed to it around the globe. Anyone with access to the internet throughout the world can make a hit — the opening and viewing of a web page.

Most businesses create their own web page to inform the public on what they offer and how to access what they offer.

Flaharty said many who have been in The P-C-N business community for a long time aren't familiar enough with it. They have raised many questions regarding its effectiveness.

Younger business owners coming into the community are more apt to exploit technology such as the World Wide Web, Flaharty added. The exposure to it they've had over recent years from schooling and recreational use gives them an advantage.

In-home businesses in the Plymouth community are those such as cleaning services, developers and builders not in need of storefront exposure.

The main reason for in-home businesses joining the chamber, Plymouth Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Fran Toney said, is because of the networking and group health care.

She said the numerous meetings that take place each week at the chamber gives the community's business leaders the opportunity to interact with each other.

Toney sees technology growing within the Plymouth business community as much as Flaharty has seen in Canton.

"It's absolutely growing all the time," Toney said. "A business such as ours couldn't service the community as well without even a fax machine, which we've had for a few years. Electrical technology is the only way we can keep up."

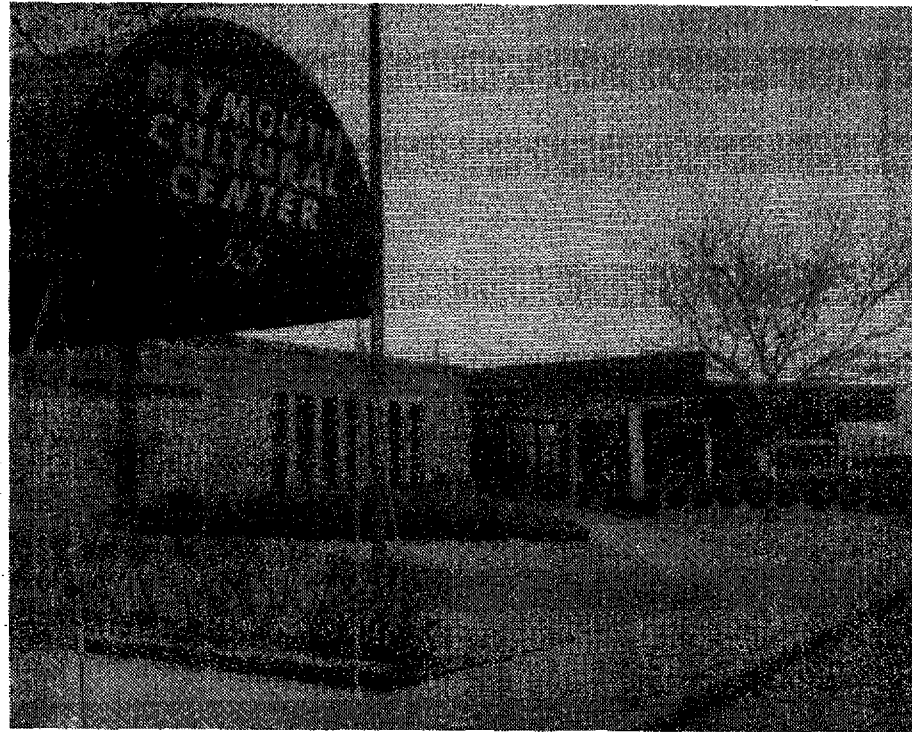
Toney said the chamber's website receives an average of 16 hits a day.

The chamber's most recent business directory, which comes out every two years, has added fax numbers, web pages and e-mail addresses. This reflects the growth of technology in the business community.

The Plymouth chamber is run by Toney and spends a great deal of time working with

Continued on pg. 20

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Chamber of Commerce benefits home offices

Continued from pg. 19

the chamber's 575 members, out of Plymouth's 1,500 businesses.

Although the more than 85 downtown businesses make up a large part of Plymouth commerce, you can't exclude the influence of the surrounding businesses and the 5-10 in-home businesses without storefront property.

Canton's chamber works for 420 members of the local business community, with 50-75 of those hailing from Plymouth.

The chambers are not confined to their own communities, they also accept out-of-town businesses to become members.

Service businesses — such as banks, travel agencies and insurance companies — are more abundant in the community than retail stores, Toney said.

Because of that, advances in e-mail, web pages and communications have become very important to keep up on, and the future will continue to bring more and more technology.

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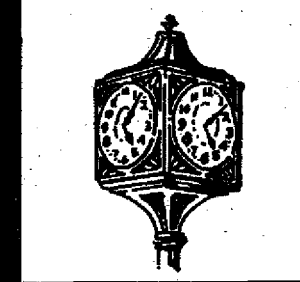




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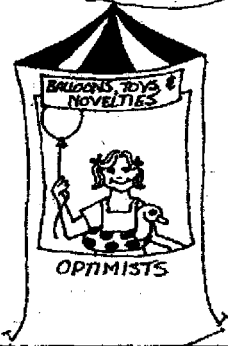
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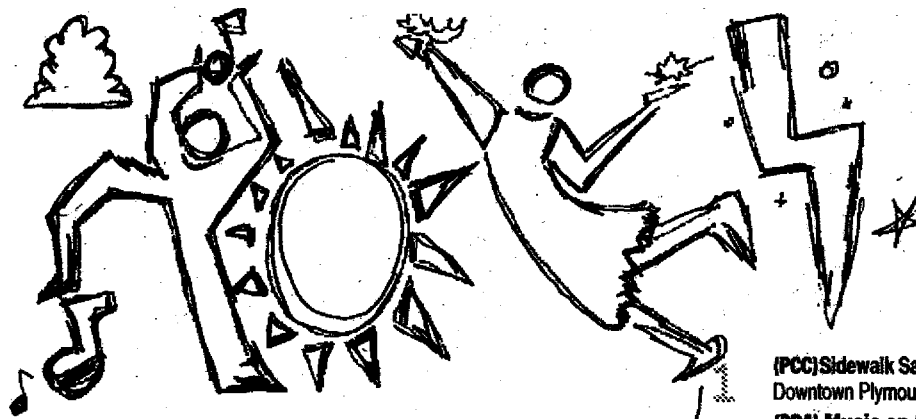
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6	(PCAC) Music in the Park Noon in Kellogg Park	7	(PP) Summer Celebration of Poetry Plymouth Coffee Bean Co., 800 (C) Summer Concert Series: Each Thursday Evening at 7:30 p.m. Heritage Park (June 26 - Aug. 21)	8	(DDA) Music on the Streets 7-9 p.m. Downtown Plymouth	9	(PCC) Farmers' Market 7:30-12:30 (PCC) Sidewalk Sales Downtown Plymouth
13	(PCAC) Music in the Park Noon in Kellogg Park	14	(PP) Summer Celebration of Poetry Plymouth Coffee Bean Co., 800 (C) Summer Concert Series: Each Thursday Evening at 7:30 p.m. Heritage Park (June 26 - Aug. 21)	15	(DDA) Music on the Streets 7-9 p.m. Downtown Plymouth	16	(PCC) Farmers' Market 7:30-12:30
20	(PCAC) Music in the Park Noon in Kellogg Park	21	(C) Summer Concert Series: Each Thursday Evening at 7:30 p.m. Heritage Park (June 26 - Aug. 21)	22	(DDA) Music on the Streets 7-9 p.m. Downtown Plymouth	23	(PCC) Farmers' Market 7:30-12:30
27		28		29	(DDA) Music on the Streets 7-9 p.m. Downtown Plymouth	30	(PCC) Farmers' Market 7:30-12:30

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A room of their own

Salem teacher aims to help kids with special needs

BY BRYON MARTIN

Challenge: an everyday word in Dave Gerlach's world.

As a teacher, a coach and an athlete, Gerlach's days are spent helping others meet their challenges.

He's an adaptive physical education teacher classroom-office, stuck Sports Illustrated cover over holes in the drop ceiling tiles and hung posters of Michael Jordan and other athletes around the room.

But the goal isn't decoration, it's motivation.

"My ultimate reason for doing this is to create a room to benefit the special ed. kids," he says. "It's their room. They take pride in it."

And according to Gerlach, pride can be hard to come by for adaptive physical education students.

"A lot of these kids aren't in very good shape. They've got poor coordination, low cardio-vascular ability and muscle tone," Gerlach says. These conditions are largely a function of the limitations of their respective illnesses.

The bikes and the room are a place to surpass those limits.

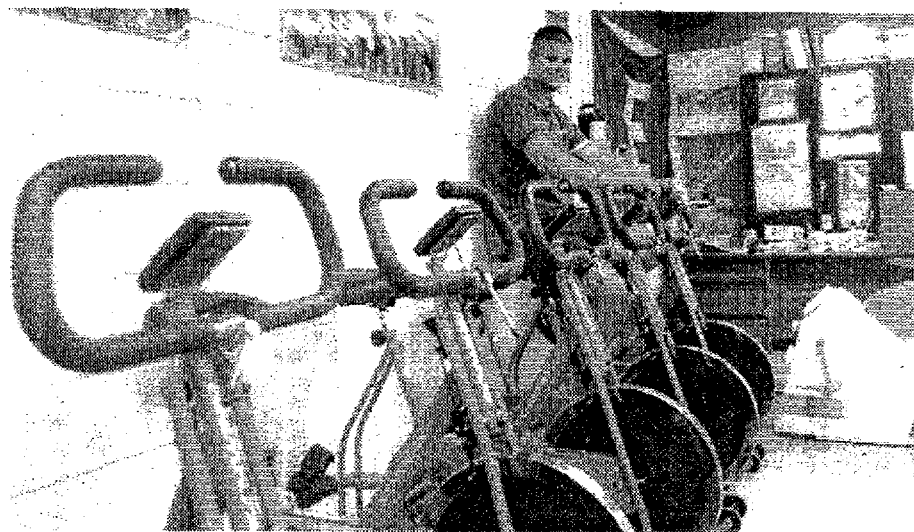
"I've got students with Cerebral Palsy who can't ride a two-wheeler. But they get in here on these bikes and they fly," he says. "When we've got the radio on and they're all pedaling we've got to close the door. But you can still here them out in the hall," Gerlach says as a smile of satisfaction crosses his face.

He knows the bikes help his students, because he has about twenty in the room right now. Most were donated after Gerlach ran a classified ad seeking unwanted exercise bikes.

"The response was good, but a lot of the bikes are in rough shape. They've broken as the year went on," he says. Gerlach worked out a deal with Jerry's Bicycles and Fitness in Plymouth to buy more durable bikes.

"They're sturdy. Replacement parts are easy to get. They don't have any fancy computers on them and there are no spokes for the kids to get their fingers stuck in," he says. "They're what we need."

But what Gerlach needs first is money.



Salem teacher Dave Gerlach sits on the Schwinn bikes his fundriaser has bought so far for special education students (Crier photo, Bryon Martin.)

He has mailed letters seeking donations in \$350 increments to various service clubs, car dealers and other businesses. Plymouth-Canton Rotary Club, Jack Demmer, the Caton Senate and other intra-school groups have responded.

Gerlach's goal hasn't been reached yet, though. And the competitor in him won't rest until until he meets this challenge, he

says. "I'm still young and crazy and I want to get things done. And this is something that will help the kids.

"I don't do things half way. And right now, this is half way."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Those interested in contributing can contact Dave Gerlach at Plymouth Salem High School.



Community deaths

Obituaries

For more information on listing a paid obituary notice in The Crier, contact your funeral director or call (313) 453-6900

DOLORES K. MacDONALD

Dolores K. MacDonald, a Canton resident, died July 21, 1997 at the age of 67.

Mrs. MacDonald was born Feb. 17, 1930 in Muskegon. She was the owner of Cookie Greetings of Bellevue, WA.

She is survived by her daughters, Anne D. (Alan) Thompson of Canton, Laurie L. Sisco of Maple Valley, WA, Patti S. Kreager of Renton, WA; and six grandchildren.

A memorial service was held in Whidbey Island, WA. Local arrangements were made by Vermeulen Trust 100 Funeral Home in Plymouth. Memorial contributions can be given to Arbor Hospice, 3810 Packard Road Suite 200, Ann Arbor, MI 48108.

BETTY KOCH

Betty Koch, a Plymouth resident, died July 7, 1997 in Cleveland, OH at the age of 82.

Mrs. Koch worked in the offices of Stahl Manufacturing in Detroit. She was the widow of Clayton Koch, co-owner of Koch's Sausage Shop, which was located at Ann Arbor Road and Haggerty in Plymouth for many years.

Mrs. Koch is survived by her sisters, Jo Schields and Edna Mae Cranford, both of Ohio.

A memorial mass will be held for Mrs. Koch 9 a.m. Friday, August 8 at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Plymouth. Friends will have an opportunity to meet the family at the church after the mass. Memorial contributions can be given to The American Red Cross or to Our Lady of Good Counsel in Plymouth.

MARY MARGARET GLIHA

Mary Margaret Gliha, a Canton resident, died July 19, 1997 at the age of 70.

Mrs. Gliha was born April 8, 1927 in Clune, PA. She was a salesperson for a retail shoe store.

She is survived by her daughters, Leisa (Michael) Card of Westland; sons, Gregory (Jean) Gliha of Plymouth, Mark (Kathy) Gliha of Ypsilanti,

Brad Gliha of Novi; sister, Sophie Hamric of Cleveland, OH; brother, George Burtrick of Indiana, PA; and granddaughter, Christine Gliha.

Services were held at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Plymouth with the Rev. Stan Tokarski officiating. Burial was at St. John Cemetery in Ypsilanti. Arrangements were made by Vermeulen Trust 100 Funeral Home in Plymouth. Mass offerings can be made or memorial contributions given to Canton Place Helping Hand Fun, 44505 Ford Road, Canton, MI 48187.

JAMES G. SCHOMBERGER

James G. Schomberger, a Plymouth resident, died July 21, 1997 at the age of 82.

Mr. Schomberger was born May 6, 1915 in Delray, MI. He was a lab technician at Parke Davis Company for 19 years. He came to the Plymouth Community in 1918 from Delray. He was a member of Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church. He was a gun smith — he owned and operated his own gun shop and he also worked at the Plymouth Sports Shop for many years.

He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth J. of Plymouth; daughter, Christine (Randolph) Battersby of Belleville; sons, James of Plymouth, Robert (Nylene) of Commerce Township; grandchildren, Anthony and Holly Schomberger; sister, Rose Simon of Brownstown Township, MI.

Services were held at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church with the Rev. Fr. Stanley Tokarski officiating. Arrangements were made by the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth. Burial was at Riverside Cemetery in Plymouth. Mass offerings can be made or memorial contributions given to the Father Lumkin "Feed the Poor."

Joan R. Geyer, 86

Joan R. Geyer, a Canton resident, died July 23, 1997.

She is survived by her daughter-in-law, Patricia Shilakes of Canton; six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Services were held at Resurrection Catholic Church in Canton. Arrangements were made by The McCabe Funeral Home in Canton Chapel.

Grace H. Owens, 80, homemaker, garment worker

Grace H. Owens, a Plymouth resident, died July 24, 1997.

She is survived by her sisters, Jennie Frew of Plymouth, Georgia Daly of Plymouth, Josephine Reid of Plymouth; brother, Joseph A. White of Plymouth; and several nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her husband, Willard.

Services and visitation were held in Wyoming, PA. Local arrangements were made by the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home in Plymouth.



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Friday and Saturday, August 1 and 2, 9am-4pm. 40968 Jill Court, In Lakepointe Subdivision, near 5 Mile Rd. and Haggerty. lawnmower, bicycle, lots of baby stuff.

GARAGE SALE Plymouth Masonic Temple, 730 Penniman. Saturday, August 2, 8-5.

Garage Sale-Fri. Aug. 1st at 9am. 50675 Chestwick Ct. Andover Lake Sub. South of N. Territorial, W/ Ridge. Lots of Everything!

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ADRIAN'S RIBS are great - and North Harvey is a party --Beauregard.

WILL AT HEIDE'S hits 21! J & E showed how to celebrate. But can he still deliver? **ERICA MANSFIELD** will be old Friday! 23! Call Medicare!

FALL FEST is coming.

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MARY MILLINGTON'S WISDOM teeth are the talk of the town.

FALL FESTIVAL is Sept. 5, 6, & 7.

THE PLYMOUTH SYMPHONY has arrived! Downtown Plymouth at 819 Penniman Ave.

CHUCK LITTLE: are you sure that car was a FORMER school superintendent? --Scott and ED

FRAN: who was that man bowing and scraping at the Chamber office? (Usually he's scraping snow and ice off your sidewalk.)

ELIZABETH HARTWICK WILL BE 90 YEARS YOUNG, August 8! Wouldn't it be nice to remember her with a card!

Curiosities

HAPPY BIRTHDAY GERRY VENDITTELLI! I think your beard's starting to gray!

Mike Carne's Real Birthday is today! He gets to celebrate on Spec Night!

MIKE WEAVER sings "Loan on me" at Peoples State Bank, 455-1511

Jim Manzo & Shelley Wojdacki both get older this week!

Karl is home! Yeah! Hope you're feeling lots better!

Danielle -sometimes I'm willing to share, but when it comes to cutting things in half, I wouldn't even do that for my bosom buddy.

FABE-SO YOU HAD A BIRTHDAY LAST WEEKEND! Edith, Let's celebrate! I'll take you out to dinner for free. We'll let Fabe come too, if he behaves. Geneva

Thanks for the yogurt. In a good pair of jeans, I can be seen from the side!

"I think they should, raise the price to \$2.50." Steve Guile, a Penn Theatre fan.

JESSE VARGA grows GREAT lettuce - thanks for the salad. --Beauregard

ERNIE HUGHES has a new moniker and a sign to go with it. Call to find out what: (313)414-0400

Poor Mary R! Waaahh!

Oh to be in England now that Allen's there. What a wonderful tribute to the late Judge Dunber Davis in the articles regarding the loss of the Court Building by fire. It will always be appreciated and never forgotten. Thank you Community Crier, Ed Wendover and Staff. Martha Davis and Family.

ATTENTION LOCAL ARTISTS Plymouth Coffee Bean Co. is looking for local artists to display their work. Contact Michael for an appointment @ (313)454-0178

Curiosities

WHERE IS MARGARET SLEZAK? Now at Peoples State Bank. 455-1511.

DEAR MARTHA ET AL: Happy to hear your voice on Sunday and glad you are doing so well. Your old home town is still hanging in there; roads being repaired, water mains breaking, trains forever in passing, building everywhere but many happy notes too. One happy note is: Liz Hartwick is alive and well and lives at Tonquish Creek Manor in one of the most desirable locations for a residence of its kind anywhere, almost the middle of Plymouth. It makes me think when I reach retirement age (joke) I don't want to be stuck out in the country, I want to be where the action is. I want to be able to go to the movies (walking distance). I want to go to Kellog Park for concerts and art shows, (on my own power.) I want to be able to look in store windows, decorated for the changing seasons, I want to be where there are people of all ages. I want to see young mothers walking their babies, with their older children. I want to see teen-agers, old people, -all ages and kinds, and that's what Liz wants too. Ninety years ago, July, Elizabeth Beyer Hartwick was born, the eldest child of Mr. & Mrs. Otto Beyer. They lived in a farm house on the corner of Liberty and Lilley Road in Lower Town, Plymouth: Lower Town because the water level was so low, upper Plymouth because the water level was so high, many homes had to be built without basements. (Sort of knocks that social status, bit into a cocked hat, doesn't it? "Old Village" indeed! I seem to have drifted. Now to get back to Liz Hartwick, born, educated,

Curiosities

married, worked as a writer for the old Plymouth Mail. Always busy! Among other things, knits one hundred stocking caps a year to be given to needy youngsters. It doesn't seem possible that she is celebrating her ninetieth birthday, (90) August 8. Let's surprise her and send her a birthday card. Elizabeth Hartwick c/o Tonquish Creek Manor, 1160 Sheridan, Plymouth, MI, 48170. Lovingly, Geneva.

MIRACULOUS INVOCATION TO SAINT THERESE

O glorious Saint Therese, whom Almighty God has raised up to aid and counsel mankind, I implore your Miraculous Intercession. So powerful are you in obtaining every need of body and soul our Holy Mother Church proclaims you a "Prodigy of Miracles...the Greatest Saint of Modern Times." Now I fervently beseech you to answer my petition (*mention here*) and to carry out your promises of *spending Heaven doing good upon earth... of letting fall from Heaven a Shower of Roses.* Henceforth, dear Little Flower, I will fulfill your plea "to be made known everywhere: and I will never cease to lead others to Jesus through you. Amen.

ST. JUDE'S NOVENA

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, help of the hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer 9 times a day. By the 8th day your prayer will be answered. Say it for 9 days. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. Thank you St. Jude.

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Volunteer needed to transcribe handwritten letters into typewritten/computer printed form in your home in the Plymouth-Canton area. Must have computer with printer or word processor. Will provide paper and computer disks. Flexible hours. To volunteer your time or for more information, Call (313)453-1558.

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Sports

Sports shorts

The Plymouth Shooting Stars won the Three Versus Three Micro Soccer Tournament Under-9 Division in dramatic fashion on Saturday at Concordia College.

Matt Czajkowski scored the game-winning with thirty seconds left in the championship game against the South Lyon Sting, lifting the Shooting Stars to a 2-1 victory.

Last year, the Sting defeated the Shooting Stars in the finals, 1-0.

Czajkowski and teammates Johnathan Harlan, Andrew Koet and Brian Kirkendall, played five games — four three-minute quarters — in searing 90 degree heat on their march to victory.

Salem boys golf tryouts Aug. 11-13 beginning at 10:30 a.m. at Hilltop Golf Course 453-9800, located at the corner of Ann Arbor Trail and Beck Road. For tee time and more information, call Salem coach Rick Wilson at 416-7762.

Compuware Sports Arena on Beck Road in Plymouth is hosting "Future's '97," a pre-season conditioning and development mini-camp every day this week.

The camp is designed exclusively for marquee players of the Ontario, Western and American Hockey Leagues. Participants are considered to be high-ranking NHL prospects.

The camp began Monday and continues until Friday. The public is invited to watch the NHL's future stars at no cost.

The City of Plymouth Recreation Department and the Plymouth Soccer Club are looking for **Youth Soccer Coaches**. Any adult interested in coaching, please contact Steve Anderson at the City of Plymouth Recreation Department at (313) 455-6620.

Amanda Humphrey of Plymouth, a freshman at Adrian College, was named to the 1996-97 Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) Academic Honor Roll.

The cross country athlete achieved a minimum 3.5 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale) while earning a varsity letter.

Women Drivers...Yes!, Visiting Nurse Association's (VNA), **fourth annual golf invitational** will return to the Meadowbrook Country Club in

Please see pg. 21

Plymouth laxers help Team Michigan win Summer Shootout

For four years the Eastern Michigan Lacrosse Association has been sending teams to the annual Buffalo, NY "Great Summer Shoot-out," considered one of the best tournaments in the nation.

And for four years they have tasted the flavor of tradition and dominance against the hometown New York teams.

In the past, the best finish for any Michigan team from any age group was third place in 1996 by the 13- and 14-year-old team.

Well, there is a first time for everything.

Many of the same teams from last year came to Buffalo again in 1997, including Team Michigan. Coached by Stan Orzel, inspired by the Red Wings and armed with a dream and determination, Team Michigan recently earned a first-place finish at the tournament.

Team Michigan, which includes Plymouth residents Steve Fogoros and Peter McGuire, employed a mission-like attitude every day of the tournament.

It was obvious from the look in their eyes and their tireless effort that they were not to be outplayed again by any New York team.

Many of the team members compete against each other in ice hockey and lacrosse throughout the year, but come together for a couple of hard fought team efforts in the sports world.

Lacrosse is certainly not a game for the timid with continuous stick and body contact combined with rough, hard checking.

Game 1 was against the Knights B team



Plymouth residents Steve Fogoros (third row, third from left) and Peter McGuire (second row, second from right) recently won the Great Summer Shoot-out lacrosse tournament in New York with playing for Team Michigan. (Courtesy photo)

one of two Hamburg, NY teams. Team Michigan came on strong matching each opponent's goal, and eventually winning, 5-3.

Game 2 turned out to be a different story. Orchard Park, NY's stifling defense handed Team Michigan its first loss, 7-4, of the tournament.

There was cause for concern at this point because the schedule called for a back to back game with a fresh host team from Hamburg, the Knights' A team. With only 20 minutes to rest between games, Team Michigan still

managed to outplay the Knights and win, 8-7.

The win put Team Michigan in third place going into the semi-final round against a team from Canton, NY. With all the excitement and determination you could expect from such a team a young warriors, they put up a remarkable fight. After all, a win against Canton would guarantee a second-place trophy. A swarming defense and Fogoros' excellent work in net led to Team Michigan's 5-1

Please see pg. 28

School of fish

Plymouth Christian Academy opens doors to Whalers

BY BRIAN CORBETT

Six players from the Plymouth Whalers hockey team will be going to high school in The Plymouth-Canton Community after all.

Whalers Associate Coach Steve Spott said last week that the players will be attending Plymouth Christian Academy for the 1997-98 school year following their second failed attempt in as many years to attend The Plymouth-Canton Educational Park, home to the Plymouth-Canton Community School District's Canton and Salem high schools.

"We're happy to be a part of their school," said Spott of the Plymouth Christian Academy. "They basically welcomed us with open arms. It's very appealing to us for many reasons, especially in terms of ratio of teachers to students."

In addition to coaching, Spott, a former teacher and school board member in his native Toronto, helps locate schools and housing for Whalers players, many of whom hail from Canada and Europe.

The Whalers are a member of the Ontario Hockey League, a top developmental league for the National Hockey League (NHL.) OHL players typically are 16 to 21-years-old and are unpaid. The Whalers pay for each player's education and provide housing through voluntary host families.

Billets have not been hard to find — nearly the entire team will be living in The Plymouth-Canton Community for the 1997-98 season — but a local high school has been.

Prior to the Whalers' first season at Compuware Sports Arena in Plymouth Township in 1996, the team's request to send its high school age players to the PCEP was denied by Superintendent Charles Little because of the school district's growing student population.

Little's said there was a "legal and technical issue around guardianship."

The P-C School District is the eighth largest in the state with more than 15,000 students, and it's also one of the fastest growing. A spring bond vote approved a third high school.

As a result of Little's decision, several Whalers attended a private high school in Allen Park. But that commute was too long, Spott says, and the Whalers hoped Little would approve their second request two months ago to enroll the six players at the PCEP this fall.

"I guess it's too crowded for six more students," Spott said.

Soop after that, the Whalers were informed about Plymouth Christian Academy. A brief negotiating period followed before the Whalers were admitted. "Being a Christian school, they wanted to know how the boys would react," Spott said.

Spott said the Whalers are pleased with the arrangement with Plymouth Christian. "(The players) play in the community, they live in the community, now they'll go to school in the community. I like to think we won the gold medal with this school," Spott said.

But the Whalers aren't the only ones to benefit from the agreement. According to Spott, Plymouth Christian will receive free ice time at Compuware Sports Arena, and assistance with its varsity athletic programs and fund-raising activities.

Not to mention to mention a few good role models, Spott says. "We don't want the boys just to be students. We want them involved in the school as well, attending pep rallies. We want our boys to be good role models," Spott said.

Plymouth Christian Academy Headmaster Gord Nichol could not be reached for comment.

On the Spott

Whalers associate coach quickly moving up

BRIAN CORBETT

Unlike so many college graduates, Steve Spott is actually working in the field of his major.

Sort of.

Spott, a Canton resident with a degree in education from Colgate University, is entering his second season as a Whalers associate coach.

"I always wanted to pursue coaching, it's another form of teaching," said Spott, who was a teacher in the early 1990s.

If he was still teaching — in a classroom, that is — he just might be superintendent by now.

That's how fast his ascent through the coaching ranks has gone.

In four years, Spott went from teaching and coaching a Tier II Toronto hockey club to becoming an important member of one of the premier OHL coaching staffs.

No small accomplishment for Spott, who was born in Toronto in 1968, the youngest of four children and the only boy.

His parents were of German heritage, thus, soccer not hockey was Spott's introduction to sports. "Soccer was my Dad's first love. So I played soccer in the summer. When I was young, we never played hockey in the summer," he said.

But hockey's swift pace fit well with Spott's intense nature, and soon the coolest game on earth was more interesting to Spott than the most popular game in the world.

On one of his boyhood teams, the Toronto Young Nationals, Spott played with future NHL stars Brendan Shanahan, Adam Graves, Glen Featherstone and

Bryan Marchment.

He played for the Toronto Marlboros in 1984, and was named Rookie of the Year in 1985 while playing for a Tier II club, the Henry Carr Crusaders.

Small; but spunky, swift and a gifted goal scorer on the right wing, Spott received a full scholarship to play hockey at Colgate University in 1987.

He enjoyed his four years in the small, out-state New York campus. "It was great. College hockey is a lot different than our league (the OHL). But it was great," Spott said.

Colgate was competitive during Spott's first three years, and peaked his senior season in 1990 with a trip to NCAA national championship game.

When Colgate lost that game to the University of Wisconsin at Joe Louis Arena, Spott also lost his dream.

"My goal was always to make it to the NHL, but when you're not that big — you're a 5'8", 5'9" forward — you have to make sure you have your education behind you," he said.

Spott did. He taught while playing for Newmarket of the American Hockey League and Richmond of the East Coast Hockey for two years before going to Europe to play for a team in the Netherlands.

"Then, that finished up and, basically, at that point, I had to make a decision in my life," Spott said.

It was a textbook answer for this teacher.

While Spott returned home to Toronto with the intention to coach the Young Nationals in 1992, he also taught and served

on a local school board.

The combination of teacher and coach seemed to work much better than teacher and player because only two years later he led the Markham Islanders to the Toronto Metropolitan Hockey League championship.

He became head coach of Seneca College in Toronto in 1995, and was named Coach of the Year after the Braves won Ontario College Athletic Association in his first season.

Another coaching assignment and another championship came with the Markham Waxers Jr. A club, who continued the franchise's tradition of excellence with a gold medal in the Metro League Tournament.

It was there he coached future Whalers Randy Fitzgerald and Anthony Terzo.

Spott didn't think he would have the opportunity to tutor those two again until an offer to coach in Detroit came from Whalers Head and General Manager Peter DeBoer via their mutual friend, Adam Oates.

Now, success is important — and Spott had had that — but this hockey teacher also had quite a few lessons in networking.

"The hockey community is a real small one. I did a lot of networking, kept in touch with friends and got to know a lot of other people," Spott said. "But, ultimately, it comes down to winning and losing."

Spott definitely passes that test.

But it wasn't just Spott's record that got him the position with the Whalers, where he joined DeBoer and Associate Coach Greg Stefan.

His college and professional backgrounds are crucial to the Whalers drafting and recruiting efforts, as well as the locker room and on-ice atmosphere.

"We've got a real good mix," Spott said of the coaching staff. "Greg is former NHL goalie, so that commands immediate respect. Me, I'm a teacher and I've been to college, and Pete's a lawyer. So we figure we've got all the basis covered."

That doesn't mean there is no erudition left in to educate Spott on the coaching profession. He accepts the job's insecurity, the frustrating fact that he might learn more from a loss than a win and the challenge of dealing with a classroom, er, locker room full of ambitious young men, much like himself 10 years ago.

"Coaching for me nowadays, you have 23 players so you have 23 different personalities. You have to find out what makes each player tick. You can't be a screamer or a yeller and just have one style. There's a lot of coaches who like to throw sticks and garbage cans between periods, but you can't do that every night," Spott said.

He lost one of his dreams years ago when he packed his equipment in his bag a left a foreign country to go home to Toronto.

It wasn't the end, it was another beginning.

Spott still has many dreams to rundown. The next one is due in reality on Aug. 16 the day he marries his fiancée, Lisa, just a few weeks before Whalers' begin their quest for the Memorial Cup as Canadian Hockey League champions.

"That's all in our dreams, right now. That's our Stanley Cup," he said.

As we all now after this summer, dreams do come true — it just may take along time.

Sports shorts

Continued from pg. 20

Northville on Aug. 18.

Women Drivers...Yes! raises money for VNA's Driving Care Home Fund, a transportation assistance program for women employed as home health aides. Funds are raised through corporate sponsorships, players' fees and a silent auction.

The Canton Softball Center on Michigan Avenue will be holding tournaments every weekend through Sept. 21.

Canton Parks and Recreation Services is sponsoring junior tennis camps throughout the summer at Griffin Park.

One camp remains, Aug. 4-7. The two age groups are Little Swingers from 4-6 years of age and Juniors from 7-15 years of age.

Instruction is for those at from the beginner to the intermediate level. Call 397-5110 for more information.

The Plymouth Whalers 1997-98 regular season schedule will include 33 home games and 33 away games.

Their Dec. 29 home matchup with Erie will be the OHL Game of the Week.

The Whalers open their season at home Sept. 20 against London and finish their home season March 11 versus Windsor.

The Plymouth Recreation Department continues registration for its Summer Park Program.

The five registration locations are Kiwanis Park (Auburn and Junction streets), Jaycee Park (Harding and Joy), Garden Club Park (Sutherland and Forest), Rotary Park (Wing and Herald) and Fire House Park (Holbrook and Spring).

Each location will provide a schedule of supervised activities from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Arts and crafts, active games, street showers, bowling, miniature golf and table games will accent the daily program.

Friday field trips are planned to the Detroit Zoo, the Skatin' Station, Rolling Hills Water Park, Kensington Metro-Park and Oakland County Wave Pool.

A fun-filled field day is planned for the final date on Aug. 15.

Call the Plymouth Recreation Department at 455-6620 for more information.

The program is free and participants must be City of Plymouth residents.



Whalers Associate Coach Steve Spott talks to the team during a Whalers practice at Compuware Arena in Plymouth. (Crier photo, R. Alwood Jr.)

Local lax players win tourney

Continued from pg. 27
win over Canton.

And now it was on to the championship game. This was it: a chance to be number one. Game 5 started out with a goal from the Knights B team, one of the host teams. The Knights were not about to let a Michigan team walk away with the trophy they provided for the tournament. Team Michigan matched that goal and continued to answer each New York goal.

It was not until the final quarter that Team Michigan took the lead. After adding a second goal they were able to hold on to the lead as the seconds ticked down, ending with a 6-4 win, earning Team Michigan a first-place finish in the tournament.

Camp 911 teaches Northville kids about safety

CPR, lifesaving techniques focus of two-day camp

BY SCOTT SPIELMAN

For two days last week, 20 children went camping at Northville Township's Fire Station Number Two.

The station became an interactive classroom for children to learn fire safety, thanks to the department's Camp 911 program.

The two-day long camp was designed to provide a fun atmosphere for children to learn basic fire safety, according to Northville Firefighter Tom Dunny.

"We try and teach them everything from basic medical services, like the Heimlich maneuver and CPR, to bike safety," Dunny said.

Held entirely at the fire station, campers break up into smaller groups and take turns at stations representing the five steps of life saving: assesment, airway, rescue breathing, CPR and bleeding control.

Skills at each station are taught by a different firefighter. The children learn from demonstrations, CPR dummies and even a brain molded from watermelon Jello.

"We make up two molds, and drop one on the ground inside a bike helmet, and one without a bike helmet to show how much helmets protect you. It's a pretty effective image," Dunny said. "Then later on we cut the brain up and eat it."

The firefighters also give presentations about dangerous household items and the best way to vacate a smokey, burning house.

On the second day of the camp, campers are tested on an obstacle course.

"We set up stations that the kids have to solve a problem at, like a man who needs a bandage, or maybe they'll have to get someone to wear a bike helmet," Dunny said. "Then we time them. The two fastest kids get new bike helmets and smoke detectors."

The firefighters enjoy the program, and the kids responded well, Dunny said.

"I think it's a good idea," said 10-year old Devon Rupley. "When I get older I want to start baby sitting. These are basic skills I can learn."

"It's a lot of fun," said 12-year old Ravi Pekati. "You don't want to leave. It's neat they way they introduce the techniques."

Kids leave the camp with a T-shirt, a first aid pack and some knowledge that they may not have had before, Dunny said.

"We test them beforehand to see what they know. And when we test them when they're done, they say: 'Now I know,'" Dunny said. "That's the best part."

Parents wanting to sign their children up for the 911 camps can call the station at (810) 348-5807, or stop at the station to pick up an application.

"We're only supposed to have 20 kids per session, but we won't turn any away," Dunny said. "We want to get the information out there."

Big draw for National Night Out

BY MATT HUCAL

Few events in the world can claim to have 23 million participants.

The Plymouth Township Police Department, in conjunction with the Plymouth Rotary, are sponsoring "National Night Out/Turn Off the Violence" Tuesday from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Plymouth is one of thousands communities across the country joining in.

Police have asked citizens to turn on outside lights and meet with officers, neighbors and local crime prevention coordinators in outdoor activities.

In some neighborhoods block parties, youth bike parades, flashlight walks and cookouts are scheduled, with private orga-

nizations donating food for the cookouts.

Plymouth Township has designated Allen Elementary at 11100 Haggerty Rd., Farrand Elementary at 41400 Greenbriar Lane and West Middle School at 44401 W. Ann Arbor Trail as cookout sites.

According to a release by the Plymouth Township Police, the event aims to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generate support for and participation in anti-crime programs, strengthen neighborhood spirit, improve police/community relations and deter crime.

"Our role in this is to get more involved with the community," Plymouth Township police officer and organizer of the local event Jamie Senkbeil said.

EMS sessions for Canton Seniors

Canton senior citizens will have an opportunity to examine Canton's proposed Emergency Medical System (EMS) billing plan at several information sessions in the next two months.

Canton's Director of Public Safety John Sauntomauro will attend several organized senior events to speak about the EMS billing proposal.

"The information sessions will enable us to rest any concerns seniors or any resident may have about the user fee for EMS transports," Sauntomauro said.

August sessions are currently scheduled for:

- 7:15 p.m. Aug. 5 St. John Neuman's Catholic Church.
- 3:30 p.m. Aug. 13 at Canton Place.
- 2 p.m. Aug. 14 at Carriage Park
- 11 a.m. Aug. 19 at Senator Loren Bennett's Senior Safety Seminar & Luncheon at the Summit on the Park.

For more information, call Director Sauntomauro's office at 397-5350.

Geddes Road to close in August

Geddes Road between Beck and Canton Center Roads will be closed to through traffic beginning August 4.

Workers will be replacing the exiting culvert and doing some bridge work. Local traffic will have access either from Beck or Canton Center Roads.

The project is expected to take 60 days.

Who's got Stanley?



Ravi Mudumdar and Xinning Li, coaches at the Schoolcraft College tennis camp, that's who (Crier-photo, Dan Martin).

BY DAN MARTIN

Lord Stanley's Cup visited Schoolcraft College Wednesday, thanks to special friendship between Detroit Red Wing Igor Larionov and Joe Brennan, director of the Schoolcraft Tennis Camp.

Larionov and Brennan met at the Sports Club of Bloomfield where Alyonka, Laranov's ten-year-old daughter, was taking tennis lessons. Brennan took a personal interest in Alyonka and became her personal coach. When Larianov learned that

Brennan would be running the Schoolcraft Camp, he enrolled Alyonka, who is a finalist in the ten-and-under category of the Junior Open.

Larionov promised Alyonka's tennis campmates that when it was his turn to have the cup he would share it with them. He kept his word, and brought pizza, pop and the Stanley Cup to the Schoolcraft tennis courts.

Larionov posed for pictures, signed autographs and talked with the crowd.



Community opinions

Plymouth's rolling stones

Reinhart and companions a collection of poetic qualities

I've always collected things—sorting and organizing in special places and decorative containers. I can remember a small collection of polished stones housed in a bird's nest that my parents kept high on one of the bookshelves. A few agates, some obsidian and a few bits of coral from our travels northeast. I'd take them out one at a time, admiring their texture in my hand, and the way they looked nestled in the carpet.

Locally there is a group that reminds me of this small collection of stones. Rod Reinhart, Plymouth's Poet in Residence, is the large river-softened stone. He has been polished by a wonderful flood of experience and recognized as an outstanding artist by the Michigan Council

for Arts. His voice, albeit strong, is comforting—his eyes rounding at the edges to meet the wide smile that greets all who talk with him.

The Plymouth Poets have been hosting poetry readings, contests and special evenings for five years, Irish Night and the Mystical Poetry Fest, included. Many of these artists are widely published in southeast Michigan, as well as nationally. Ann E. Horvath helps compile student work for the McGuffin Literary Magazine of Schoolcraft College. Van Baldwin organizes the poetry program for the Guild House of Ann Arbor.

Ann and Van remind me of two pieces of granite: strong personalities, with flecks of color that glimmer in water. Both spread

The Abstract

By Stephanie Everitt-Kirkbride



laughter and enthusiasm, while remaining serious in their need to write, to express themselves. Reinhart says Ann is a wonderful mother, and a "literary mother of many aspiring poets."

In Reinhart's eyes every one has a spark to share, to kindle the creative fire. Carol Was and Guthrie Neidhart have also brought great life to the group. In Donna DeMeyer, a host for many of the summer Thursday night readings, there is a

"gentleness and depth" Reinhart says. In fact, he has many good things to say about his fellow poets. A sincere thank you is first on his list.

Should you have Thursday free, please stop by the tribute to Allen Ginsberg at the Plymouth Coffee Bean Company. Partake of some poetry, tap into the local art pulse, and happen upon a fine collection of rolling stones.

First ammendment no guise for picket

EDITOR:

In reference to your July 16 article about the strikers who disrupted a peaceful Canton neighborhood with bull-horns, chanting, etc., I read with interest the article of the previous week from Dana Anthony, a Canton resident, objecting to such antics.

I commend his thoughts that the first amendment, calling for free speech, should be limited to properties other than private neighborhoods.

It's hard to believe that anyone would agree that disturbing the peace is allowable under the guise of the first amendment.

The Canton police should not have allowed the rowdy group of strikers to disrupt a private residential setting.

This group promised "we'll be back." I hope the next time, they are not allowed into a private sector for a repeat performance.

I, for one, treasure the peace and quiet of my area, and want it kept that way.

You seem to imply that anything is doable under the first amendment, but disturbing the peace is against the law.

DOROTHY LOUKS

That empty feeling

It's like the poster that former Plymouth-Canton School Superintendent Mike Hoben had in his office:

It pictured a horse standing uncomfortably half over a fence and read "Damned if you do, damned if you don't."

There are three vacant storefronts in downtown Plymouth right now.

That's three out of some 100 storefronts. Yet the three sites—the former Chameleon Gallery on Main Street, the

former Cheryl's Closet/me and mr jones on Ann Arbor Trail, the former Venture Outdoors on Penniman Avenue — are visible sites.

And the landlord to the Main Street site, Jim McKeon, has employed a novel "what should go in here?" ask the public campaign. (So far the overwhelming vote is for a food use of some type. There's one vote for a topless bar.)

But that resulting campaign PR has town

talking about "all those vacancies" downtown. It overwhelms the Penniman "good" news that the Plymouth Symphony has moved downtown and that Tom's Oyster Bar has started renovations.

That's the "damned if you do, damned if you don't" dilemma. As McKeon readies his

With malice toward none



building for a complete overhaul and publicly looks for a tenant, does he make town look "empty"?

Family gives perspective on Lorenz case

EDITOR:

We would like to respond to the recent article and developments regarding our brother, Rick. The family is saddened by some remarks that have reached all of us. There are always two sides to a story.

We know and love Rick and saw him interact with his children and our own for many years. It hurts us to know people have jumped to conclusions about him. Rick is a father of our children: a 28-year old son and an 18-year old daughter living away from home; and a 15 year-old daughter, and a 12-year old son at home.

For the record, Rick accepted a plea bargain and was sentenced, July 25, to a maximum of 90 days in jail. This plea was offered after two and a half years of prosecutorial delays and a mistrial that resulted during jury selection in April. He reluctantly did this rather than

risk the possibility of Colorado's very severe, mandatory 30-year sentence. His concern has always been his daughter and son who are still at home. By accepting a

In today's court system you must prove yourself innocent of these charges and it's very difficult for a father once he is accused.

plea, he hopes to preserve his time and relationship with them. In June, the judge who heard the case awarded him full custody of them for the summer.

It is a fact that sexual assault charges are very common in contentious divorce and child custody cases. Many innocent men are serving jail time for such charges. Unfortunately, in today's court system you must prove yourself innocent of these charges and it's very difficult for a father once he is accused. As an example, Colorado law allowed Rick's positive results to a voluntary lie detector test to be suppressed by the District Attorney.

Anyone who saw "Turning Point" on ABC TV July 24 or "Dateline" on NBC July 28 (regarding suppressed memory syndrome) know the pain Rick and our family is presently experiencing. The many kindnesses and prayers that friends have offered hearten the family, especially Rick and his children.

We are grateful for these friends and prayers.
STATON LORENZ



Community opinions

Court all options

More than money matters in courthouse location

Every community in the 35th District has a claim on where the new courthouse should be.

Canton, with 55 percent of the population of the district and a police staff almost as big as those of the other four communities combined, provides the majority of the case load for the court.

Plymouth is of course more centrally located, and the site of the old courthouse may prove more economically feasible than building elsewhere.

I kind of like the possibility of building a new courthouse at Five Mile and Beck Roads, as suggested by Northville Township Supervisor Karen Woodside.

It's easier to get to than the current site and not blocked by railroad crossings. And, while not located centrally within the district, does provide the imposing view of the Scott Correctional Facility

Kerry Erdman, the court's administrator, likened the courthouse to an unwelcome relative: you may feel obligated but you don't necessarily want it around.

Off the cuff

By Scott Spielman



The fact is that although the court is a business, and pays rent and taxes like any other, it deals with criminals on a daily basis.

Although a location in northern Canton could be as little as two miles away from the old site, it is primarily a residential community, and people don't like the idea of criminals traipsing through their neighborhood.

Regardless of where it should go, or what I think, I hope the court advisory board considers every aspect of a new building, not just whose treasury will benefit from having the building in their community.

Bond suit wastes time, money

Board candidate, bond committee member protests ongoing battle

EDITOR:

As recent Board of Education candidate, member of the Citizens Election Committee for the 1997 bond proposal and a concerned parent and citizen, I have been watching with interest the issues surrounding the current court litigation.

As I have said, and will say again here, I think it is very unfortunate that there were so many under votes in the March 22 election. However, I still believe that had the votes been "yes" or "no," they would have been split according to the numbers that

Worthy fight in bond suit

EDITOR:

The recent election passed a bond issue for schools. I voted in the election. Seven hundred of my fellow residents of the school district also cast their ballots. However, their votes didn't count. The attempt to have the results overturned is termed a waste of money.

The purpose of the suit is not to change the outcome, but to insure the result correctly reflects the will of all voters, including these 700.

If the bond issue had not passed, would not the other side be wasting our money in a suit to accomplish the same ends?

It would seem to me that the purpose of the suit is not to change the outcome, but rather to insure that the result correctly reflects the will of all voters, including these 700.

If this is being frivolous and wasteful, then so be it.

ALFRED M'CLOUGHLIN

were recorded and the proposal would have passed. Which brings me to why I am writing this letter.

I believe the majority felt that this was a good proposal and wants to see it implemented as planned. This court battle is wasting valuable time and money and those who care need help to be kept abreast of the facts.

With respect to time, the first thing that we need to remember is that new students are still coming. The recent Canton census reports that there are 4699 preschool students living in the district

The majority felt that this was a good proposal and wants to see it implemented as planned.

that are not yet registered for school. Future Plymouth-Canton graduating classes will be very large.

The second thing we are losing is planning time and site work time. If this goes on too long the opening of the proposed schools will be delayed.

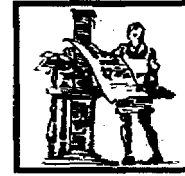
With respect to money, this delay has already cost the district. If \$80 million worth of bonds could have been sold on June 1, 1997 as planned, the district would be making \$11,477 per day in interest. This money was to have been used to offset other costs.

In addition, the district is responsible for attorney fees, stenographer costs, costs of copying deposition transcripts, transportation costs for the software owner from California and Board of Canvassers stipends.

Everyone must do what he or she thinks is right and I have no doubts that there is a group of people who think this is "the right thing." All I ask is that we all keep in mind what the ultimate goal is, and that is to educate the kids of this community to the best of our abilities.

SUZANNE DERSHEM

The Community Crier



THE
NEWSPAPER
WITH ITS
HEART IN THE
PLYMOUTH-CANTON
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821 Penniman Ave.
Plymouth, MI 48170-1624
(313) 453-6900
CrierNews@AOL.COM

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PUBLISHER:

W. Edward Wendover

GENERAL MANAGER:

Mike Carne

EDITOR:

Bryon Martin

PHOTO EDITOR:

Richard Alwood

SPORTS EDITOR:

Brian Corbett

REPORTER:

Scott Spielman

INTERN:

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ADVERTISING CONSULTANTS:

Michelle Tregembo Wilson

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John Thomas

BUSINESS MANAGER:

Lisa A. Lepping

BUSINESS ASSISTANT:

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CIRCULATION DIRECTOR:

Maura Cady

RECEPTIONIST:

Geneva Guenther

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345 Fleet St.
Plymouth, MI 48170-1656
(313) 453-6860

PRESIDENT:

W. Edward Wendover

GENERAL MANAGER:

Mike Carne

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GRAPHIC ARTISTS:

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