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**MONDAY**  
March 11, 1991

Volume 35  
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Two Sections  
12 Pages plus Supplements

# the NOVI NEWS

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TO CITY OPEN-DOOR POLICY / 5A

**Dining** CHEF SEMINAR  
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## Plans to bring back Meijer put to a stop

By JAN JEFFRES  
Staff Writer

A last ditch effort to persuade Meijer Inc. to locate a store in Novi may have been buried by the planning commission Wednesday.

The request to recommend the rezoning of 28 acres — once part of the city's controversial Grand Plan — from heavy industrial to commercial was rejected as too open-ended by the planners.

Meijer at one time had an option to purchase the site on the west side of Wixom Road south of Grand River and planned to build 205,000 square-foot store there. The company's representatives now say the 24-hour shopping mart will likely be on adjacent land within Wixom's boundaries.

David Kull, a Farmington Hills attorney representing the owners, British West Corporation of the Cayman Islands, said the firm hopes to lure Meijer to Novi after all.

"We understand that they have not committed but are pretty

"Like it or not, this section of our city is changing. The changes are being made outside our city and having impact on our city. We can be leaders and take initiative and bring it back to our city. I think we are putting our heads in the sand by saying it's not going to come to Novi."

Kathleen McLallen  
Novi Planning Commissioner

strongly involved with a piece of property there (Wixom)," he told the commission.

"We feel if the property were zoned B-3, we could entice them to change their mind. We think if we were the first-est with the most-est they would come back to us. We think they will have problems with the other parcel."

Kull conceded that no new offer from Meijer has been forthcoming: "If we were unable to obtain Meijer,

we would certainly be looking to develop the property with a comparable facility to Meijer."

Rezoning the land without a firm commitment from the Grand Rapids-based Meijer left the majority of the planning commission cold. Their recommendation for denial will be sent on to the city council, which has the final word.

The commission had earlier sup-

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## Soldier's return awaited

By SCOTT DANIEL  
Staff Writer

William and Denna Heller's hopes of seeing their son for the first time in six months were temporarily put on hold Friday after being informed by Army officials that the Novi soldier wouldn't be among those returning home from the Persian Gulf over the weekend.

John Heller, 19, has been stationed in the gulf since early August as part of the 82nd Airborne Division. The Novi couple headed south Wednesday in hopes that their son would be among the 900 soldiers from the division returning to Fort Bragg, N.C., over the weekend.

"We are going on the outside chance of seeing him," said Denna Heller Wednesday.

According to daughter Nova Heller, the couple arrived in Frederick, Md., near Andrews Air Force Base, Wednesday night after leaving the city at around 4 p.m. She said her parents had learned from news reports early last week that the soldiers would be arriving at the Maryland base Friday.

Information from the Pentagon refuted the news reports, however, saying that the troops would go directly to Fort Bragg.

Nova Heller said her parents decided to stay in Maryland with family through the weekend and then return to Novi today. She said they were disappointed that the

soldier didn't return over the weekend, but are looking forward to the day he does.

"They are going to be in the car heading right back down when they find out when John is coming in," she said.

The couple had prepared a special message to find their son in the crowd they expected at the base.

"We are going to make a big posterboard saying, 'John Heller, you are our hero,'" Denna said before leaving Wednesday. "That is the only way we will be able to find him from all the other soldiers."

John's eventual return to the U.S. will end a difficult stay in the Middle East. The 19-year-old underwent surgery to remove his appendix Nov. 5 last year after developing a case of acute appendicitis. He was sent back to his unit shortly after the surgery on Nov. 10.

William and Denna Heller contacted U.S. Sen. Carl Levin's office in Detroit in an attempt to bring their son home to recuperate after the surgery. The couple was unsuccessful in their attempts and had no knowledge of their son's condition until he called the day after Christmas.

Since then, Denna Heller said the family has had sporadic contact with John. She said they last heard from him March 4, after receiving a letter dated Feb. 3.

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Photo by SUZANNE HOLLYER

## Cora the drug-sniffing dog

In a demonstration before students from Novi and Northville, Wayne County deputy investigator Greg Morris shows how determined Cora the drug-sniffing dog can be in getting

shock of a duffel bag that still has traces of drugs in it. More details on Cora and the program are on page 4.

## Identical house sparks lawsuit

By JAN JEFFRES  
Staff Writer

In September, when Randall and Lisa Deboer moved into their new Novi home, they thought the red brick colonial they had chosen would be unique to Royal Crown Estates subdivision.

In December, the couple was dismayed to learn that the ground had already been broken next door for a home identical to their 2,800 square-foot "Breckenridge" model.

The Deboers live on Lot 47, White Pine Drive. The duplicate house would have been on Lot 48, Braydon Court — technically on the corner of another street, but literally side-by-side to the Deboer family residence.

Complaints to the city and the builder, based on a Novi "similar-to-similar" ordinance barring duplicate houses adjacent to one another on the same street and across the street, did not bring satisfaction, Lisa Deboer said Tuesday.

In February, in an attempt to stop the construction, the Deboers filed a lawsuit against Novi; the developers, the Bestak Corporation; and the builders Premier Homes Building Company Inc. and Lifestyle Homes.

"We've got a quarter of a million dollars tied up in this house. When you build your dreamhouse, you



Photo by BRYAN MITCHELL

The home of Randall and Lisa Deboer, left, and the site of an identical home next door that led to a lawsuit based on Novi's "similar-to-similar" ordinance.

don't expect them to build a house exactly like it right next door to you. We would have bought a bungalow in Dearborn," Lisa Deboer said.

On Feb. 25, the Novi City Council unanimously agreed to a variance needed to alter the design of the second house, essentially putting the case to rest.

At the time, Assistant City Attorney Dennis Watson described the lawsuit as "very unusual," explaining that usually a developer complains that a city ordinance goes too far, but this time a resident contended that the ordinance didn't go far enough.

The Braydon Court house was originally approved by city engineers and building department, who ruled it met the letter of the ordinance: "The building department didn't believe and we agreed with them we couldn't deny it," Watson said.

Randall Deboer contested that. "I thought I had to stand for what is right and in the best interests of the resale value of my home," he explained.

"Basically, the judge said we had a case and that all the parties should sit down and come up with a resolution acceptable to all parties. The judge made it very clear to the city that it was in the city's best interest to approve the variance."

Some city council members agreed with the Deboers that the intention of the city ordinance was violated.

Mayor Pro Tem Edward Leininger threw his support behind the couple: "I agree with the ordinance and I'm glad they did something about it. The spirit of the ordinance was violated. Just because it faces this street or this street, they're next-door neighbors. The people who brought this lawsuit were ab-

solutely correct."

The Deboers and the defendants in the lawsuit sat down with Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Hon. Barry L. Howard, and hammered out a compromise — one which ultimately won city council approval.

The ordinance has since been sent to the planning commission for review and to the city attorney for a rewrite.

A variance was granted from the city's design and construction standards that call for driveways to be located no closer than three feet from the side lot line, to allow the still unbuilt home to be shifted one foot closer to the lot line.

"We all walked away satisfied. I feel justice was done," Randall Deboer said.

Meanwhile, the Deboers are paying their attorney's fees.

## Hair salon robber sought by police

By CRISTINA FERRIER  
Staff Writer

A man wearing a woman's nylon hose over his head threatened to kill two employees at Fantastic Sam's on Grand River in Novi Monday night, then made off with all the money in the cash register, Novi Police said.

The employees, two Howell women, told police the man walked in

shortly after 8 p.m. Monday night, pointed a semiautomatic gun at each of them, threatened to kill them, then fled with the money.

The hairstyling salon was already closed when the man came in, the women told police. One of the women was in the salon's break room when he walked in, and the other was in the office counting the money.

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Feature stories, columns, and complete program listings — all that inside today's paper in "Suburban Cable Weekly," your guide to television. The TV listings are keyed to the actual channel numbers on the local MetroVision cable system.



## Community Calendar

Today, March 11

**Library Board:** The Library board will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Novi Library building.

**Board of Review:** Novi's Board of Review will begin its annual deliberations of challenges to property tax assessments Monday. The board will be meeting throughout the week, although residents may present their appeals to the board by appointment only. Residents challenging their assessments will have seven minutes in which to make their case to the board. Board members will attempt to make a determination at the time of the hearing, although some appeals may be held for further review. The board of review will be meeting from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. On Tuesday, the board session will run from noon to 9 p.m.

Tuesday, March 12

**Questions about your SEV?** An informational meeting in which Novi residents were informed about how to go about appealing their property tax assessments to the Board of Review will be rebroadcast on Channel 12. Covered in the meeting were the functions and procedures of the board of review, the data residents need to submit to the board to support their appeals, and how to read the assessor's field cards on individual properties. The meeting will be aired on Novi public access channel at 11 a.m. and 9 p.m.

Wednesday, March 13

**Senior Polluck:** Novi Senior Citizens will have a polluck luncheon at noon in the community center of the Novi Civic Center.

**Youth Assistance:** The Novi Youth Assistance board will meet at 7 p.m. in the Novi Civic Center.

Thursday, March 14

**Parks Commission:** The Novi Parks and Recreation Commission will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Novi Civic Center.

**Historical Commission:** Also meeting in the Novi Civic Center will be the city's Historical Commission. The meeting is set for 7:30 p.m.

**Open house:** Novi Co-Op Nursery School is sponsoring an open

house from 10 a.m. to noon. Those interested can meet the teachers and view the facilities. The public is also invited to a craft auction Thursday, March 21 at 8 p.m. For more information, contact Kathy at 344-0118 or Merry at 349-5842.

Friday, March 15

**One last chance:** For those who have not had a chance to go before the Board of Review to appeal their assessments, there is still one more chance. Residents may submit an appeal in writing to the board of review by 5 p.m. today. Residents' protests of assessment levels must meet the same standards as those who present their appeals in person to the board. They may claim hardship or attempt to show why the assessment is set too high. Those who do not file an appeal with the board of review may not file an appeal with the state tax tribunal.

**Mother-Son Dance:** Novi Parks and Recreation will be holding a mother-son dance in the Community Center of the Novi Civic Center beginning at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are available through the Parks and Recreation office.

**Rock-a-thon:** The Mid-High Youth of Faith Community United Presbyterian Church are holding an all-night Rock-a-thon to raise money for the Novi Emergency Food Program. This is a community volunteer program that uses donations to purchase food from Gleaners and then distributes the food every other week to about 25 families in the Novi area. The organization is a group of seventh and eighth graders and friends who will be rocking in rocking chairs for ten hours and will be accepting pledges from the community for each hour that they stay in those chairs. The community is invited to attend an open house from 7:30 to 9 p.m. to cheer the youngsters on and to show support. The church is located at 44400 West Ten Mile Road. Dessert will be served. Last year was the first time the Rock-a-thon was held and the group raised \$2,000. The goal this year is to top that figure. Anyone interested in making a donation to the group may send it to the Faith Community United Presbyterian Church, 44400 West Ten Mile Road, Novi, 48376.

To get your event listed in the Community Calendar, send information regarding the event, activities to be included, who is sponsoring it, location, time and date, ticket information and the purpose to which any proceeds will be put to the Novi News at 104 Main Street, Northville, 48167.

## Planners put end to Meijer in Novi

Continued from Page 1

ported the zoning reclassification when it was part of the Grand Plan package, but this was overruled by the city council in spring 1990. The Grand Plan would have moved heavy industry from the city's downtown to 300 acres on the west end. To make the program—which included reduced land costs as an incentive—financially attractive to the landowners, the Meijer store was included. The B-3 zoning allows fast food restaurants, car wash facilities, gas stations, car dealerships, nurseries, motels and drive-ins—the most unlimited of the business districts, city planning consultant Brandon Rogers said. The proposed zoning is also in conformance with the city's master plan, he added.

But Rogers did not support the switch, saying he could not do so until more definitive plans were available and the Novi master plan committee and commission made their recommendations. "I'm having a lot of difficulties about B-3. It's too open. Without being too specific, there's been a car dealership issues in discussion there," said planning commissioner Tom Gilbert. During the drawn-out Grand Plan process, residents opposed to the concept—pointing to the Northville Township Meijer store as an example—said they feared crime problems at the 24-hour operation, as well as heavy traffic. Supporters of the store's placement in Novi said it will give residents of the city's west end a place to shop,

as well as bringing in more property tax revenue. The Northville store has a tentative state equalized valuation of \$4.255 million this year, according to the township treasurer's office. But some members of the planning commission said that road improvements that would have been part of the Grand Plan won't happen with the Meijer alone in Novi. Planning commissioner Harry Avellan agreed that west end residents need a place to buy a bottle of milk, but didn't think he could support a carte blanche move to give B-3 zoning to the parcel.

Said planning commissioner Judy Johnson: "You may end up with a Meijer in Westland and an equally large use in Novi. You're talking about doubling the traffic without the fund for road improvement. The people who opposed it will have all the negatives without any of the advantages of the tax base." Planning commissioners Kathleen McLallen, Thomas O'Branovic and Eric Shaefer supported the rezoning. "Like it or not, this section of our city is changing," McLallen said. "The changes are being made outside our city and having impact on our city. We can be leaders and take initiative and bring it back to our city. I think we are putting our heads in the sand by saying it's not going to come to Novi."

O'Branovic said that residents opposed to the Grand Plan said they really didn't mind the Meijer so much as the industrial park and the quality of heavy truck traffic it would generate.

## Aruffo withdraws from council race

By JAN JEFFRES  
Staff Writer

Planning commissioner Ernie Aruffo has bowed out as a candidate for city council, due to health reasons. Aruffo announced during Wednesday's planning commission meeting that he is taking his hat out of the ring on doctor's orders. On Feb. 21, Aruffo, 69, suffered what was believed to be a severe stroke attack. "Yesterday, he (his doctor) advised me it was more than stress and I will be monitored, watched and medicated," he said.

"I have done this reluctantly and I feel relieved the announcement has been made. I shall remain as your commission volunteer." At least 12 may still be in the running for three available seats on the city council, possibly triggering a primary this summer. If 10 candidates do run, the primary would cut out all but six. The terms of Mayor Matthew Quinn, Mayor Pro Tem Edward Leininger and council members Joseph Toth and Martha Hoyer are up in November. Only Toth and Quinn—the only mayoral candidate to date—have said they'll seek re-election. Along with Aruffo, parks and recreation chairman Gerald Shulman, parks and recreation commissioners David Ruyle, Robert Huntington, James Kupitz and Kevin Crain have picked up petitions for a spot on the ballot. Parks and recreation commissioner Diana Canup says she'll run. In addition, four other petitions have been picked up at the city clerk's office, but the names of the potential candidates are not yet known. June 18 is the deadline for filing the petitions.

Aruffo's announcement was met with mixed emotions by his fellow planning commissioner Judy Johnson, who said she was disappointed he wasn't going to be a council candidate. "The downside of him being elected was we'd lose him as a commissioner," she said. Other planners applauded Aruffo's continued future on the commission. "Three more years," chanted commissioner John Balagna. Aruffo explained that he is involved with so many meetings and volunteer work, he might have been overdoing it. "I think I'm going to be all right. I'm encouraged," he said.



For the children

Becky Kohl plays Mary Poppins in a skit for a Novi Meadows talent show. The talent show was held at Novi High School on March 6. The production was dedicated by the upper elementary school performers to those children in the world less fortunate than themselves.

Photo by H.M. GOULD

## Police issue composite of suspect

Continued from Page 1

The woman in the break room told police she heard the front door open and rose out of her chair, but the robber was already standing there, pointing the gun in her face. She told police he used obscenities and told her to "sit down and don't move." According to the police report, the man then went into the office and pointed the gun at the other woman, demanding the money. The woman who was in the office told police she had just begun to count the money, and she dropped it on the floor. She told police that the robber began picking up the money and said "give me the rest of it or I'll kill you."

She said she told the man that there wasn't any more. She told police he then asked where the safe was, and she told him they don't have one.

At that point, police said, the man looked back into the break room and said to the first woman, "You're a dead b---."

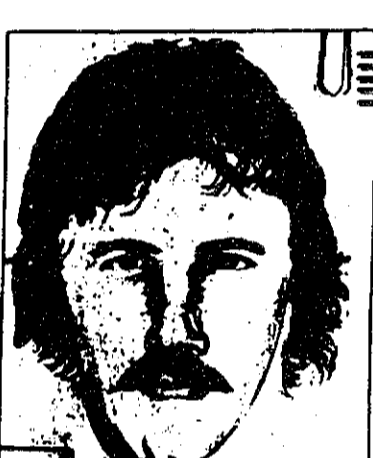
Then, the women told police, the man told them not to move and he ran away. They did not see the direction he went, or the car he was driving.

Police have released a composite drawing of the suspect, who is de-

scribed as a white male in his early to mid-20s, 5'7" to 5'8" tall, 140 to 150 pounds, with light brown hair and a mustache. He was last seen wearing a denim jacket and blue jeans in good condition, tennis shoes, and a nylon stocking over his face.

Novi Detective Frank Barabas said the composite is based on the features the women could see through the nylon stocking. He said the stocking was loose enough that the man's features were not overly distorted.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call Barabas at the Novi Police Detective Bureau, at 348-7100.



Composite sketch

## Family waits for soldier to come home to states

Continued from Page 1

"He looked good," the mother said. "He looked like he had gained some weight." The end of the war provided some relief for them, Denna said. Because of John's work in communications, she said, they believed he was in a relatively safe area during the war.

"We don't know exactly where he was at, yet," the mother said. "We found out that he was either near the Euphrates River or in Kuwait."

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## City hikes tap-in fee for new homes

By SCOTT DANIEL  
Staff Writer

Developers of future housing in Novi may have to pay more for connections to the city's water system. City council agreed in concept to more than double the connection fee, from \$500 to \$1,100 at its meeting on March 4. Annual increases of up to \$100 on the connection fee would come after the initial rise.

The increased revenue would be used to complete the city's water system by paying for main extensions and connections to future housing. "We need seriously to look at increasing water tap charges so that we can make improvements over the next 10 to 15 years," City Manager Ed Kriewall told council members. "We are facing water improvements on several fronts."

In a letter to Kriewall, Frank Naglich, a city engineering consultant, outlined Novi's water system needs. He said a total of 71,000 linear feet of water mains, ranging in diameters of 12 to 30 inches, would be needed to complete the system as the city becomes more fully developed. Pressure regulating valves, meters and a booster station will also be needed, Naglich said. Estimated cost for the improvements, he said, is \$8.6 million.

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# Youth reports harassment by group

A 16-year-old Plymouth youth reported March 8 that a group of people followed him out of the parking lot at a Novi High School basketball game, then threw a rock at his windshield and broke it.

The youth told Novi Police that a group of six white males, approximately 16-17 years old, followed him and a friend, also from Plymouth, out of the school. He said the group harassed and threatened them.

The two Plymouth youths got into their 1987 Ford Bronco, owned by the first youth's mother, and started

## Police News

to drive away. He told police that the group followed them on foot as they tried to exit the parking lot. As they turned east onto Ten Mile Road, he said, one of the harassers threw a rock at the windshield.

The person who threw the rock was described as short and muscular, with blonde hair that was long in

the front and short in the back. Another of the six in the group was described as tall with brown hair and a mustache, with a thin build. The rest of the group could not be identified.

OUIL: A 31-year-old Detroit man was arrested by state police March 10 for OUIL while traveling eastbound

on I-96 in Novi.

Troopers stopped the man after clocking him at 75 miles per hour in a 55 mph zone on the highway. Upon making contact with the 31-year-old trooper observed that the man appeared confused and lethargic. They also noted a strong odor of intoxicants from the man breath, reports said.

A subsequent breath test revealed that the man was legally intoxicated. He was taken into custody, and ticketed for OUIL and driving with a suspended license.

# Murder suspect up for extradition exam in Chicago

By CRISTINA FERRIER Staff Writer

Felipe Planes is still in a Chicago jail, awaiting extradition to Michigan where a judge will decide whether he should face murder charges for the death of Dorlando Kenney.

Planes, one of two suspects in the murder, was arrested in Chicago Feb. 20 after Chicago police acted on a tip from the Novi Police Department.

The other suspect, Nelson Cobas, was arrested Dec. 13 in Kalamazoo Township. Cobas is currently being held in Oakland County Jail without bond, pending trial on an open murder charge. A trial date has not yet been set.

The body of Kenney, 33, was discovered along Twelve-and-a-half Mile Road in Novi by an area resident on his way to work at 8 a.m. Nov. 9. Police said signs of a struggle at the site indicated that Kenney had been murdered there.

An autopsy report by the Oakland

County Medical Examiner reported that Kenney had died of multiple stab wounds. He had been stabbed 13 times.

A witness who was with Cobas, Planes and Kenney hours before Kenney's death testified at Cobas' preliminary examination that he believed Cobas and Planes had killed Kenney because of a cocaine deal that went wrong.

The witness, Domingo Martin, testified that Kenney had arranged the deal for Cobas and Planes, but that the "cocaine" the dealer sold them turned out to be powdered sugar.

Martin said Cobas and Planes believed Kenney was responsible for the incident and said "someone has to pay."

He testified that over the next several days, after Kenney's body was found, he received numerous phone calls from Cobas, asking whether Kenney's body had been discovered, and warning him not to say anything to police.

# Design applauded for saving forest

By JAN JEFFRES Staff Writer

Kudos from city consultants — and the planning commission — were forthcoming Wednesday for a design to save 25 acres of woodlands and wetlands via smaller lot sizes in a new subdivision south of Nine Mile Road.

The Selective Group's plans for the 89 Home Lake Forest subdivision are to be passed to the city council for final approval — keep intact 31 percent of the subdivision's land as four open-space parks.

Eighty-one acres on the southeast corner of Nine Mile and Beck Roads are eyed for the development. The area is zoned for residential with a density of 1.09 lots per acre.

Under a provision of the city's new adjusted lot size ordinance, the developer hopes to plant 1.7 lots per acre. The ordinance allows reduced lot sizes if it is found that the preservation and protection of woodlands and wetlands would not permit a conventional subdivision layout.

"I'm glad this is the first one to set a

standard for the first adjusted lot size development. I commend the designers," city planning consultant Brandon Rogers said.

The commission agreed unanimously. "We're very pleased to see this appear, that you're taking us up on our new ordinance," said chairperson Edward Kramer.

Sixteen acres of woodlands regulated by the city will remain intact. Rogers said the woods left in the natural state will complement regulated woodlands in the Bradford of Novi subdivision and those to the south in Northville.

"As we learned from the Timber Ridge subdivision, the best way to save trees is to stay out of them completely and not just place houses around them," said Cliff Seiber, a consultant to the developers.

Planning commissioner Judy Johnson applauded the blueprint. "A million square feet of parkland will come into preserved existence and we'll have it forever. That's a major hallmark, as far as I'm concerned."

## Novi Briefs

**Held over:** An appeal of a city council denial for permits and variances needed to drill an oil well west of Echo Valley Estates subdivision was tabled March 5 by the zoning board of appeals.

The applicant, the Southern Michigan Oil Company (SOMOCO) has a lawsuit against Novi currently pending in the Oakland County Circuit Court.

A special meeting on March 26 at 7 p.m. has been set aside for the local appeal. Zoning board chair Gerald Bauer said the meeting will last at least four hours.

"That's what SOMOCO indicated and I think there's going to be a great deal of audience participation," board member Lisa Foote added.

**Show biz:** The city council is already being televised live on cable Channel 13. Now the planning commission is wondering if it will also get in on the act.

"We should start discussing how we feel about having the switch turned on for us... I'm personally very supportive and ready to do this at any time," commission chair Edward Kramer said Wednesday.

Planning commission member Harry Avagian quipped that maybe some members might choose to be individually blacked out: "There would be words on the screen that this commissioner does not wish to be televised due to an FCC requirement."

**Novi hoopers honored:** Mayor Matt Quinn presented members of the Novi High basketball team with a "Team Novi" award Monday at the city council meeting. Each member of the team shook hands with the mayor and was given a Team Novi pin.

"We chose to honor you because you adopted Team Novi," Quinn said. "You are ambassadors for the city throughout the state of Michigan."

The council also passed a resolution commending the team on their fine season, including the championship of the Kensington Valley Conference.

**Providence Novi Run:** The 11th annual Providence Novi Run will be held Sunday, April 28 this year. Runners will have their choice of a one-mile walk or run, 5,000- or 10,000-meter runs.

The mile run leaves city hall at 12:30 p.m. while the other runs will get under way at 1 p.m. Each run will wind through several city subdivisions and conclude on Taft Road.

An \$8 entry fee for the run will be charged for the 5 and 10K runs. The mile run will be \$5. Refreshments and awards will be given afterwards. The first 400 runners to register will receive T-shirts.

**Wrong number:** Some unfortunate callers in Novi has been receiving a lot of wrong numbers lately. A number listed in the Novi Parks and Recreation brochure as the contact number for information about Novi Youth Baseball League was incorrectly printed. The correct number should be 348-7218. Paul D'Agostino can be reached at that number year-round to provide information about the league.

The Novi Youth Baseball League will be taking registration through March 28. All players 8 to 16 years of age are eligible. Players must be 8 years of age as of Dec. 1, 1991 and must have proof of age, such as a birth certificate, to register.

Registration information can also be obtained through John Goodman at 349-2543.

**Arts Council honored:** The Novi Art Council received the 1991 Community Service Award from the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association (MRPA) during the group's annual conference in the Detroit Westin Hotel in February.

The Novi Arts Council has been in operation since 1987 when six residents began meeting to improve the arts and cultural activities in the Novi community.

## Obituaries

**Irene M. Sheehan**

Irene M. Sheehan, 78, formerly of Novi died Friday, March 1, of heart complications at Sinai Hospital.

Irene Sheehan was born in Detroit on June 2, 1912, to Myrtle Bredenburg and Joseph Sheehan. She was employed by the Chrysler Corp. as a secretary for 40 years. Currently residing in Farmington Hills, she was a member of the Church of the Holy Family and of St. Priscilla parish in Livonia.

A scripture service was held March 3 at 4 p.m. at the O'Brien Chapel/Ted C. Sullivan Funeral Home in Novi. Funeral services were held Monday, March 4, at St. Priscilla parish. Fr. Kevin O'Brien presided at the 9:30 a.m. ceremony. Interment will be at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Arrangements were made by the O'Brien Chapel/Ted C. Sullivan Funeral Home.

**Ruth V. Wolff**

Ruth V. Wolff, 81, of Novi died March 5 at her home of cardiac arrest.

Mrs. Wolff was born Sept. 21, 1909, in Boston, Mass., to Veronica

Vatter and Leslie W. Kindred. She received her masters degree in 1953 from Wayne State University. She was employed by Detroit Public Schools as an art and elementary school teacher for 36 years, retiring in 1988 from Fox Elementary. Mrs. Wolff was a member of Holy Family Church, was an aficionado of bridge and pinochle, and was a world traveler.

Mrs. Wolff's husband Harold preceded her in death. Surviving her are her sister Eleanor Talkien, her daughter Eleanor R. Wiles and one grandchild.

A scripture reading was held Friday, March 8, Visitation was Thursday, March 7.

Funeral services for Ruth Wolff were held March 9 at the O'Brien Chapel/Ted C. Sullivan Funeral Home in Novi, followed by a mass at Holy Family. Fr. John Budde officiated. Interment will be at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be sent to the Anti-Cruelty Assoc., 13569 Jos. Campau, Detroit, 48212. Arrangements were made by the O'Brien Chapel/Ted C. Sullivan Funeral Home.

# Opinions

## As We See It

### Make a commitment to open-door policy

"What kind of community do we want this to be?"

That's a question we in Novi ask nearly every day, in part because the city is growing so fast. And the answer we usually get is that we want it to be a quality residential municipality, one in which residents have a strong sense of identification with the community, one in which they have a strong sense of participating in the community. To borrow a few phrases from Mayor Matthew Quinn, we also would want Novi to be an "open-door community," one with a "diverse housing stock" and, hence, a diverse population.

To get such a community, one would have to welcome all contributing members of society who would like to set up residence here, regardless of race, creed or color. One would also have to have a community in which residents could live all their lives, from birth through childhood into adulthood until death. A community should provide a place for residents in all stages of life.

Novi is in many aspects already a high quality community. It does, however, fall short of some of the aforementioned goals.

This point was made clear by the recent release of 1990 census figures by the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG). The most recent federal head count showed that the size of Novi's black population was six times larger than a decade ago. However, black residents still accounted for less than one percent of the total Novi population.

Residents of all other minority groups also increased, but still accounted for just over 4 percent of the population.

Mayor Quinn pointed to the increase as evidence that Novi is an "open, integrated community." He said he expects the growth of minority populations will continue and he contended that Novi is "recognized by the black minority... as the place to be." The city has sought to encourage the migration of minorities into the city through its recent support of the Oakland County Center for Open Housing.

But there is a problem, and Quinn hit the point right on the head. To quote, he said: "There are no barriers in Novi, except for the economic barrier."

But that, dear reader, is a significant barrier indeed. And it serves not only as a barrier to blacks and other minorities, but to a substantial portion of the middle class, regardless of race, who might desire to move in.

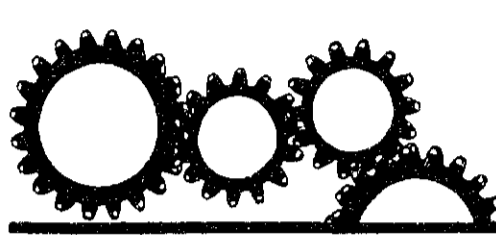
Additionally, it serves as a barrier to Novi's own children who might just want to stay here after they reach adulthood. With the economic barrier as it stands, many of Novi's own youth find they must move elsewhere in order to obtain affordable housing — since few can attain upper-middle class status in that first job out of college — and can only move back if and when they achieve "success."

Consider the degree of that barrier. The average wage in the U.S. is \$22,600, at least as it was calculated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for the latest year available, 1989. The average wage in Michigan is only slightly higher, \$24,800.

Using the bankers' old rule of thumb — that a homeowner can afford a house three times his or her annual salary — the average worker in this state can afford a house worth about \$74,700.

Now consider the likelihood of buying a house in Novi for that amount. According to the figures offered by the Oakland County Economic Development Group, the average house in Novi was valued at \$131,500. To move into Novi these days, it seems you need a family income of at least \$43,800.

Granted, Novi does have a few low cost housing options. For one, it seems to have a more than ample supply of mobile homes parks. But this certainly is not the American Dream. And while there are a few low cost houses going in, the clear preference of Novi builders is for the higher end of the market.



## Development

So that economic barrier would seem to exclude not only the lower class, but also the lower-middle class, the middle-middle class, and even a sizable chunk of the upper-middle class.

Even if Novi does welcome blacks and other minorities, it would seem to be headed toward something akin to "economic segregation."

To a degree, the policies of the City of Novi exacerbate that problem. Take for instance the move several years back to increase lot sizes in the western portion of the community. The purpose, we recognize, was not just to make housing more expensive. It was to improve the quality of developments in that area, by decreasing density and preserving more open space, by moderating growth, and by insuring that the area could develop in a residential fashion without need of sewers.

Still, a side effect was to boost even further the price of homes that would be built there and put those houses even further beyond the reach of even more middle-income wage earners.

Another example would be the minimum size of new homes as required by the city. Novi allows no home to be built under 1,200 square feet. Needless to say, such homes cannot be constructed for a price most middle income wage earners can afford. It is due in large part to these kinds of size requirements that builders all across the suburban market, not just in Novi, now avoid the "starter home market." Back in the '50s and '60s, when communities would allow homes in the 900- to 1,000-square-foot range, much new construction was actually targeted at first-home buyers. First-home buyers are these days relegated to the used housing market. In effect, they are also relegated to the older communities which have ample supplies of used housing stock.

Quinn concluded on a positive note. While admitting new housing in the city is expensive, he said he believes there is existing housing in Novi which is within the price-range of most people. "We still have a good cross-section of housing. Our goal is to have a diverse housing stock. The big test over the next 10 years will be to keep that diversity," he said.

We certainly agree with his stated goal, but we have to disagree that the way to achieve diversity is to merely maintain the existing moderately-priced homes. Rather, the city's stock of low-end, starter homes needs to be expanded. Otherwise, it will certainly continue to make up a smaller and smaller portion of homes as the city's residential areas expand.

It is a difficult dilemma to solve. The city is now attempting to create a quality community, one which can be maintained as a quality community in the decades to come. Building only expensive homes is one way to achieve that, since they are more likely to receive high levels of care. Lower-priced homes are admittedly more susceptible to decay. But it also seems to us there are other ways the city can avoid that problem. They may simply require more diligence.

In any case, it would seem to us that further diversification of the housing stock should be the goal. A diverse housing stock will be the only means of insuring that the community's doors can truly stay open — to middle-income earners, to minorities, and to Novi's own young adults.

## Women keep society running



**Phil Jerome**

"Nothing important, my little pet," I replied. "Just conducting my own little survey of the work force in the greater Northville/Novi area."

"What in the world are you doing now?" she asked curiously.

"I returned to my counting. 'Man, Man, Man, Two men, Man, Woman, Man, Three men,' I said, counting aloud the occupants of the cars whizzing down the exit ramp and turning left on Eight Mile.

"What in the world are you doing now?" she asked curiously.

"I was a bit taken aback by the vehemence of her feelings and was about to respond when she let me have it again. 'That's right,' she snapped. 'Women have to go right home after work, but you men... you men head immediately for the bar.'

"Sorry, I'm late dear," she said huskily, apparently attempting to emulate a male voice, "but I stopped off for a drink on the way home. Tough day at the office. So I had a quick one with Rich and Chris over at Clancy's."

"Well, it's all a crock... and every woman knows it. It's us women who are helping American business run smoothly. And then we run home to keep home and family together as well."

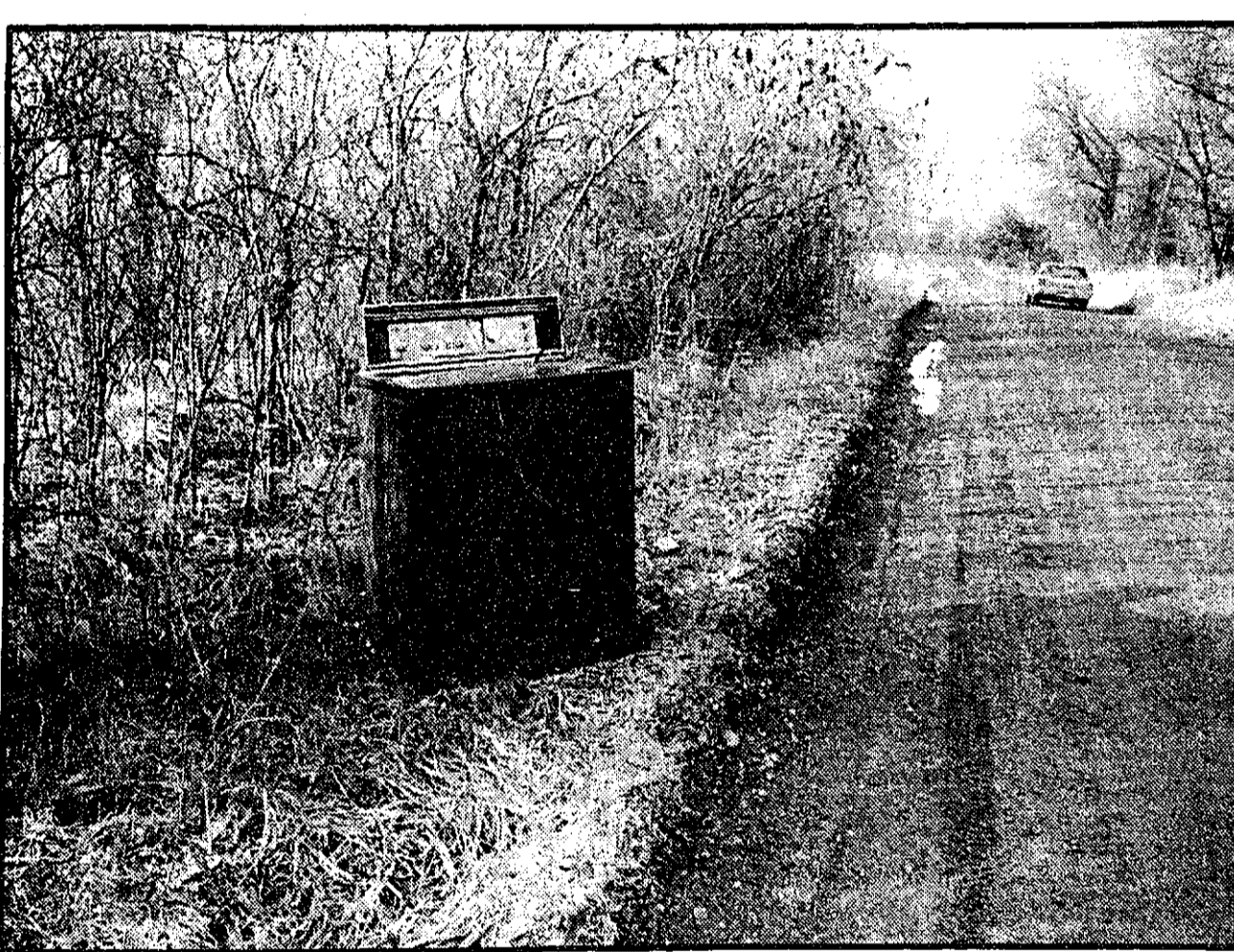
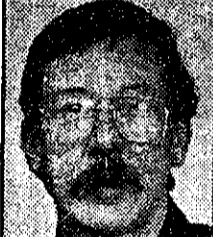
She stopped talking then, so I figured her little diatribe was over and began thinking of an appropriate response — to defend the honor of us men, of course.

I thought for a minute about saying how I always get a lot of women in the bar whenever I stop off for a drink after work. But I recovered my senses in time to realize that such a comment would probably get me in more trouble than I was already in, so I acted judiciously and asked her what kind of gift she wanted for her birthday.

Phil Jerome is executive editor of HomeTown Newspapers which publishes the Novi News.

## In passing

By Hal Gould



'Country cooking'

## Curiosity proves compelling



**Rick Byrne**

The most-watched show on television last week was the 60 Minutes program that featured the interviews with Bob Simon and his fellow journalists who were held prisoner in Iraq.

I was one of those with my eyes glued to the Sony that night, and I watched a second interview with the unfortunate quartet the next morning on Cable News Network. Call it professional curiosity, but I just wanted to know what they were discussing.

Older and wiser, I realize the danger in which I had placed myself. Looking back, I'm fascinated with the innocence that put me in that position.

I wasn't trying to be a thrill-seeker or a daredevil. I wasn't looking to impress anyone. I just wanted to see a tornado. I was curious.

That emotion is what drove Simon and his crew to put themselves at risk, and it is what drives journalists to do their jobs. So often the media are assailed for "carrying out witch hunts," "trying to make headlines," or "trying to get the big story." For the majority of journalists, it's nothing quite so complicated.

It's just a little occupational hazard called curiosity.

my dorm, and our resident advisers told us a tornado had touched down about 10 miles away. They shuttled everyone down to the basement of the building for safe keeping.

I had grown up in New York City, and I figured if I could ride the subways at night, then a tornado ought to be a piece of cake. Never having seen or experienced a tornado, I wanted to see what they were all about. I slipped back to my room, grabbed my rain poncho and walked outside.

All was eerily quiet, and the light rain fell on my cheeks as I looked skyward. From a hill alongside the dorm, I could see for a mile or two to the west, north and east. I watched the western horizon, but saw nothing. The rain got a little heavier, and a light breeze kicked up, but nothing catastrophic. After a half hour or so, I gave up, disappointed.

Older and wiser, I realize the danger in which I had placed myself. Looking back, I'm fascinated with the innocence that put me in that position.

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It's just a little occupational hazard called curiosity.

Rick Byrne is copy editor for The Northville Record and Novi News.

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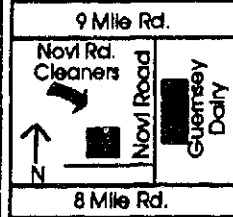
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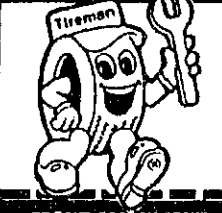
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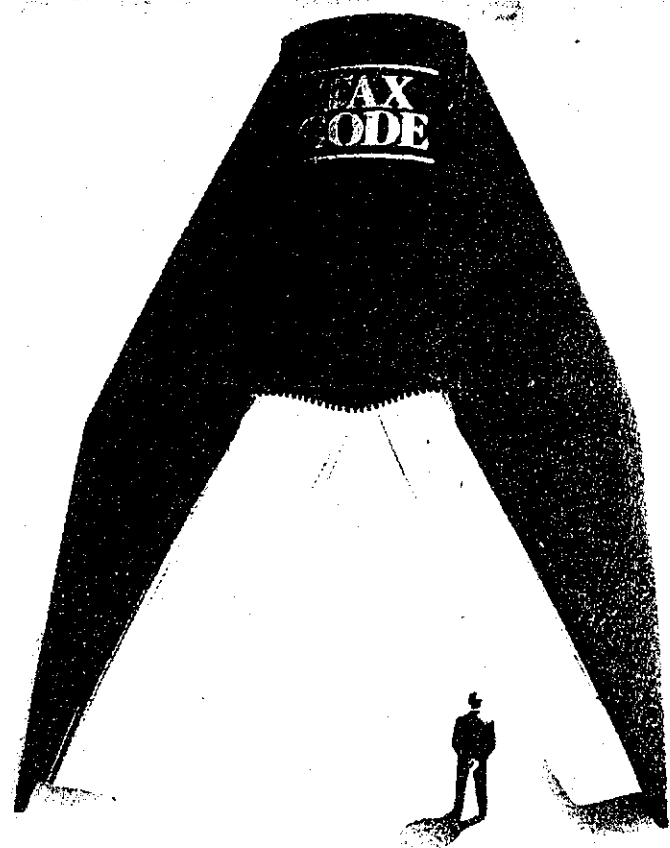


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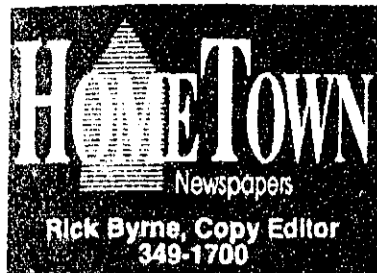
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# FOOD CREATIVE DINING

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MONDAY  
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Eleanor & Ray Heald/Wine

## Gallo finds it's time for their premium wine

E. & J. Gallo Winery is this nation's largest wine producer. E. & J. Gallo's Hearty Burgundy may well be America's best-known wine. But let's face it, Gallo offers no competition in the premium end of the market. Until now!

Born within 100 miles of Modesto, Calif., the city they put on the map, Ernest and Julio Gallo grew up working a small vineyard bought by their father in 1925. At the end of Prohibition in 1933, the brothers borrowed about \$6,000 and started the greatest wine success story in a rented warehouse.

At the start, their table wines were shipped in barrels. Distributors at the other end of the line bottled the wine under a variety of labels. It was only in the early 1940s that the first Gallo label appeared.

How big is Gallo today? No one in the company will give exact production figures, but it's easy to make close estimates because Gallo has its own glass plant that churns out 1.5 million bottles per day.

OK. You've seen the bottles in every grocery chain, but have you been noticing the subtle changes over the last few years? Wineries in Sonoma County have.

A little-known fact is that E. & J. Gallo is one of the largest Sonoma vintners, crushing more grapes from this premium California wine region than any other winery. In the mid-1980s, Julio Gallo and his son Bob resculptured hillsides in Sonoma's Dry Creek area to create magnificent vineyards where cabernet sauvignon and zinfindel have been planted. In the Russian River region of Sonoma, they planted chardonnay, johannisberg riesling and gewurztraminer.

In 1989, the Gallos bought a 1,000-acre vineyard site near Asti in the northern reaches of Sonoma County. Vines from this property will come into production in four to six years.

What does this Sonoma County vineyard commitment mean to the consumer? Part of the answer can already be experienced with a taste of Gallo's vintage-dated premium varietals. The completion of the query will come with release of the first estate-bottled Sonoma wines in the near future. This sequel is being ushered in with Gallo's 1988 Limited Release Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc together with a stunning rendition, 1978 Gallo Private Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon.

Sorry, folks, you can't find these wines at the supermarket. Gallo's doing it right. They are showcasing these wines in restaurants. And in this area, we're not talking about dinner houses. We're talking upscale restaurants — the Whitney and the Van Dyke Place in Detroit, Fox and Hounds in Bloomfield Hills, the Round Table in Plymouth, Country Epicure in Novi and Pike Street Restaurant in Pontiac, to name a few.

The 1988 Gallo Limited Release Chardonnay (\$12-14 restaurant list price) is a departure from early 1980s releases. "The attempt is to highlight fruit without overly emphasizing chardonnay's inherent apple qualities," said Carmen Castorina, Gallo's regional communications director.

Ask for it in a restaurant to accompany light seafood selections, chicken or pasta, with a delicate cream sauce.

### WINE SELECTION OF THE WEEK

1978 E. & J. Gallo Private Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon (about \$30 on area restaurant wine lists). Bottled in 1983, this wine was personally selected by Julio Gallo, who also supervised the winemaking.

It was aged 48 months in 4,000-gallon Yugoslavian cooperage. It is soft, supple, generous and at its optimum drinkability. Until now, this "Private Reserve" bottling was called the Family Selection, reserved for the Gallos' private use and has been seen in the marketplace only at select benefit auctions.

It could change the way you view E. & J. Gallo wines.

## Sophisticated Ladles

### Chefs demonstrate the best of the best

By RICK BYRNE  
Copy Editor

Detroit carmakers have their auto show, but for chefs in the area, the chance to showcase their successes comes at the annual chef's seminar at Schoolcraft College.

The third annual edition of the seminar was held last Monday, March 4, with some of the most talented and innovative chefs in Southeast Michigan sharing their expertise with participants. Eight chefs gave their demonstrations, among them Ed Janos of Too Chez in Novi, and Jeff Gabriel, chef instructor of Schoolcraft's American Harvest Restaurant, and chef/partner of Les Auteurs in Royal Oak.

Those in attendance lined up on small bleachers in the huge kitchens at the school's Waterman Campus Center to view the presentations.

"The title was right: 'Seminar for Sophisticated Cooks,'" said Janos. "Every chef demonstrated what was going on in his restaurant, some current trends and entrees."

Most of those attending were professional chefs and restaurateurs,

looking to pick up pointers. Others were serious home cooks. All received continuing education credit for their participation. Chefs are like doctors in that they must continue their education to maintain certification.

"I'm a Certified Executive Chef," said Janos. "When you're certified, you have to have certain numbers of continuing education points every five years to be recertified."

Janos demonstrated his innovative, almost quirky, style with his herb-braised Atlantic Wolffish over potato pizza. He then sequed into a twice-cooked crisped duck from one of his award-winning presentations. An experienced lecturer, Janos teaches about 10 classes a year at Schoolcraft, Kitchen Glamour stores and elsewhere.

"The people enjoyed it a lot," said Janos. "They enjoyed the new techniques and different flavors and the new plating. At least they said they did."

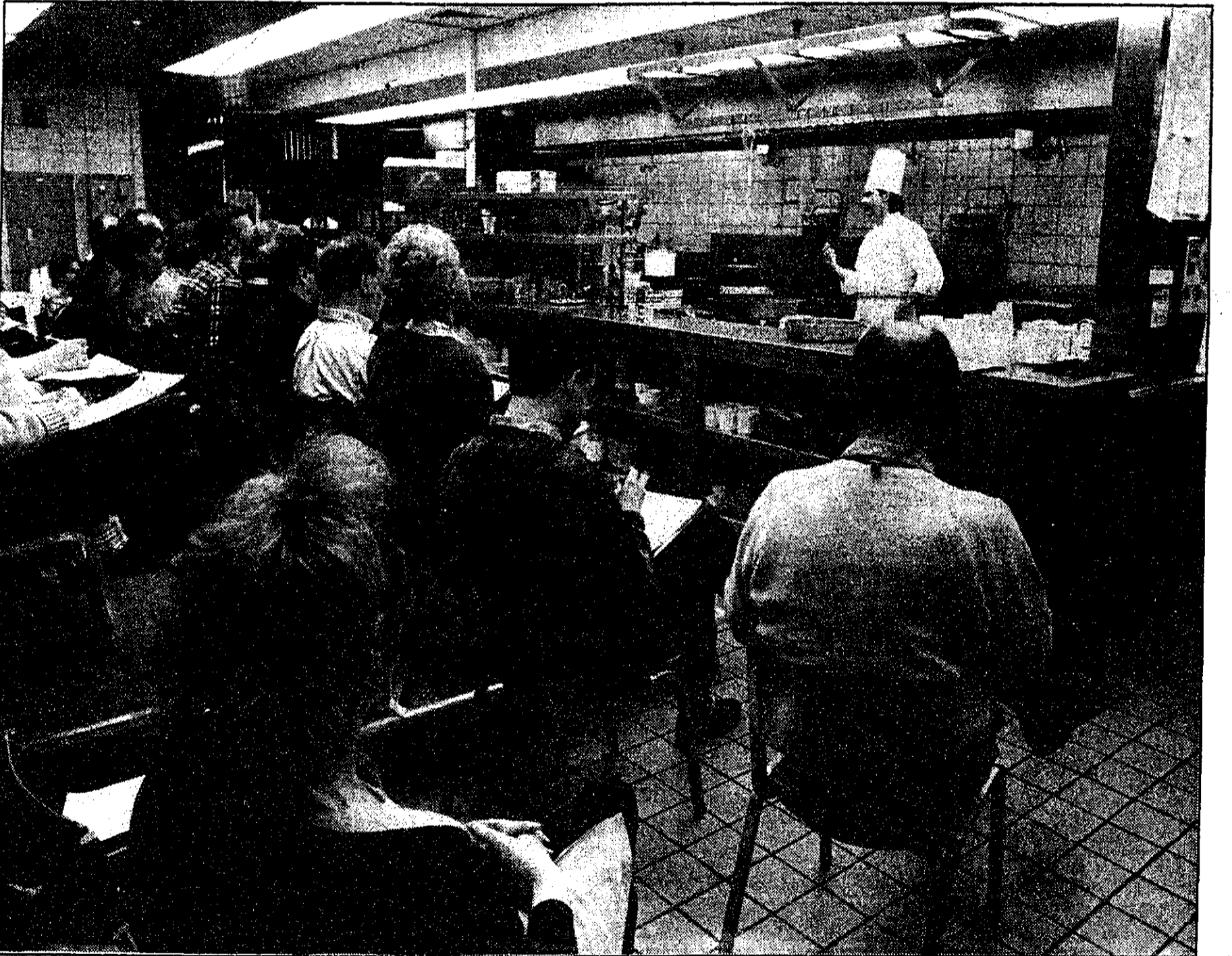
For his session, Chef Gabriel drew on his experience in competition. Ga-

Continued on 3



Photos by HAL GOULD

The Seminar for Sophisticated Cooks offered plenty of interaction between chefs and their audiences. Below, Chef Brian Polcyn of the Pike Street Restaurant answers questions. Above, Chef Brian prepares pheasant consommé with corn custard, a Southwest specialty.



Chef Mary Brady

## Put on the pressure for good food

Early last summer on one of my runs, I happened upon a block garage sale. After six miles, I was ready for a break, and what a good excuse.

My husband Tom, along on his bike, is not a browser, and strongly urged me on. Of course I couldn't pass up potential bargains and we went through at least 10 garages before I found it: a like-new, only-used-twice, 1950s Sears pressure cooker for \$5.

Against the protests of "What will you use that for?" and "How many gadgets do we need?" I promised the seller, an older gentleman, that one of us would be back to retrieve our purchase later that day.

I had dreams of cooking beans, tougher cuts of meat and soups, and canning quarts upon quarts of tomatoes and sauces to get me through the winter. My mother used a pressure cooker — for what I don't remember — so it seemed "right" that I should learn also; not to mention that as a chef and lover of cooking, my curiosity to discover another cooking method had been aroused.

Well, the summer went on and the time came to try the new toy. Carefully I read the instructions, recalling the extreme danger always associated with cooking under pressure. I readied my ingredients, assembled the cooker, turned on the heat and waited with anticipation.

And waited, and waited . . .  
No pressure ever built up. The rubber gasket

had deteriorated with time. With disappointment, everything was packed up, put into storage and forgotten — until now.

Toula Patsalis, owner of Kitchen Glamour with her husband, Chris, and director of their cooking schools, has written a book entitled "Joys of Pressure Cooking." And what a book it is. Full of quick, delicious and nutritious recipes. From appetizers to desserts, this colorful, fun, easy-to-follow book has them all.

The advantages of pressure cookers are varied: up to 70 percent less cooking time, energy savings, one-pot cooking with easy cleanup and little preparation time. In addition, as Toula points out, the meals are tastier because of the concentration of flavors, and more nutritious because leaner cuts of meat can be used.

The book goes into detail to explain the ins and outs of a pressure cooker. The selection of the proper cooker is where the process starts. As with any other kitchen tool, there are varying grades. The stainless or enamel cookers are preferred over the aluminum because there is no darkening of food due to acid interaction.

Size is also of importance. Even if your family is small, you should consider a model large enough to provide some leftovers. Regardless of the number of portions a recipe yields, cooking time will remain the same.

For perfect pressure cooking every time, there

are certain steps that should be followed. Always read the manufacturer's manual and take particular care to understand the explanation given for the various parts. Keep extra rubber rings on hand and check the flexibility of the valve.

Study your recipe and collect the ingredients. Trim excess fat and cut veggies to the same sizes. Use adequate liquid, never less than what is recommended.

Purchase a heat diffuser if one isn't included with your unit, and use when cooking rice, pasta and beans. Be sure the lid is securely attached and build steam until the desired pressure is reached. Turn the burner to medium heat to maintain pressure and begin timing. Invest in an accurate timer as time is crucial to success. Follow instructions to relieve pressure.

Finally, thoroughly wash all parts of your unit in hot, sudsy water. Cleanliness is imperative for the proper functioning and long life of your cooker. There are over 200 recipes included in Toula's book. It is hard to believe cheesecakes and bread pudding are cooked to perfection under pressure. The stock recipes are so easy and fast, you'll never use a canned stock again. There's even a chapter on salads and luscious-sounding chutneys and jams. The meat, poultry and fish recipes are impressively easy and sound mouthwatering.

Continued on 2

### MEXICHICKEN TACOS

3 slices bacon, cut in 1-inch pieces  
1/2 cup olive oil  
1 onion, sliced  
3 cloves garlic, crushed  
1/2 cup fresh cilantro, finely chopped  
1/2 cup salsa jalapeno (bottled)  
1/4 cup ketchup  
1 cup canned or fresh chicken broth  
1 teaspoon salt  
1/2 teaspoon chili powder  
4 chicken breast halves

skinned, boned and cut in 2-inch strips  
1/2 cup sour cream  
1 tablespoon potato starch  
1 (24 count) package miniature taco shells  
1 cup (4 ounces) grated Monterey Jack cheese  
2 cups shredded lettuce  
1 green pepper, coarsely chopped  
1 large tomato, seeds removed, coarsely chopped  
2 avocados, peeled, thinly sliced

In pressure cooker, saute bacon in hot oil for one minute. Add onion, garlic and cilantro; saute for three minutes. Stir in salsa, ketchup, broth, seasonings and chicken strips.

Secure lid. Over high heat, develop steam to medium pressure. Reduce range heat to medium and cook for six minutes.

Release steam according to manufacturer's directions. Remove lid. Stir chicken and sauce.

Combine sour cream and potato starch. Stir into chicken and sauce and cook over medium heat for one minute.

Place taco shells on large tray. Spoon chicken and sauce into shells. Add pinch of cheese, lettuce, green pepper, and tomato to each filled shell, topping with sliced avocado.

These tacos are a real winner for football Sundays. Chicken filling may be frozen for up to three months.



### The Refrigerator Door

**PRESSURE COOKING:** A demonstration in pressure cooking will be given at noon on March 16 at the Kitchen Witch, 107 N. Center St. in Northville. The demonstration will be given by Paula Palsalis, author of the book *Joys of Pressure Cooking*. Kitchen Witch owner Ronnie Cambra will be offering a 15-percent discount on Palsalis' book on that day, as well as a 15-percent discount on all pressure cookers.

**CHILI COOK-OFF:** Amateur and professional chili cooks are invited to compete in the 1991 Great Chili Cook-Off, May 4 and 5, sponsored by The National Kidney Foundation of Michigan.

The event features two days of chili cooking competitions at the Washburn Farm Council Grounds in Saline, located near Ann Arbor. Eighty cooks will be selected to compete in Saturday's cook-off, which follows the rules of the International Chili Society, forbidding beans and other fillers. The winner will receive \$500 and be eligible to compete in the International Chili Society World Championship Cook-Off to be held in California this fall.

"The anything in the pot" Renegade Cook-Off on Sunday, May 5, allows cooks to use beans, pasta and other fillers. The winner gets \$250 and a guaranteed spot in the 1992 Saturday cook-off. Forty cooks will be selected to participate.

Registrations for both cook-offs will be accepted through March 15. Cooks will be selected through a lottery drawing on March 18. To receive a registration form, call The National Kidney Foundation of Michigan toll-free at 1-800-482-1455.

**TASTE OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY:** As part of the annual Livingston County Home Show on Saturday, March 16, several area caterers and restaurateurs will be offering samples of their specialties. The event is held in the Howell High School Fieldhouse from noon to 4 p.m. Admission to the show is \$2. Aside from the food, some 125 booths will be displaying the latest in home improvement and decor. Call (517) 546-3920 for more information.

**WINTER AND SPRING CLASSES:** Kitchen Glamor Stores in Redford, West Bloomfield and Rochester are taking registration for their winter and spring classes. Eight well-known area chefs, including Tom MacKinnon from MacKinnon's in Northville and Marcus Haight from the Lark in West Bloomfield, will offer a series of classes. The fee is \$40 per class or \$375 for the series.

Other classes will cover such subjects as one-pot meals, Passover dishes and turkey entrees. For details, call 537-1300.

**TURKEY LOVERS' CONTEST:** The National Turkey Federation is conducting its second annual "Turkey Lovers' Recipe Contest" designed for young chefs aged 12-18. Copies of the contest rules may be obtained by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: RULES, National Turkey Federation, 11319 Sunset Hills Road, Reston, VA 22090.

Contest entries will be accepted through April 1. Each entry will be judged on three parts: the recipe, an essay describing nutritional content and an essay describing food handling techniques.

**SUPERMARKET TIPS:** An informative sheet, "Charting Your Way Through the Supermarket," offers tips for making educated decisions at the supermarket. It is available free from the Oakland County Cooperative Extension Service, 1200 N. Telegraph, Pontiac, MI 48341. Questions about food, nutrition or food safety can be directed to the Food Hotline, 858-0904.

"The Refrigerator Door" is a list of coming events and short notes about food and drink. If you have an event planned or a brief announcement you would like included here, send it care of this newspaper, 104 W. Main Street, Northville, Mich., 48167. Photos or other artwork welcome.

## Letting your microwave chip in

Chocolate chips come in milk chocolate or semisweet, and the latter only slightly sweetened with sugar — a by far the more popular. Manufacturers sell more than 123 million pounds of semisweet chocolate chips — that's about 1/4 pound per person per year.

Chocolate chip cookies are perhaps the most popular vehicle for these tasty morsels, but your microwave can transform them into a variety of sweet treats to tempt your palate.

Melted chocolate chips make an easy candy coating — and melting them is a snap in your microwave. Always be sure that utensils are perfectly dry when melting chocolate.

Never cover chocolate when melting, and melt at medium (50 percent) or medium-high (70 percent) setting rather than at full power. This will help ensure against overheating.

Check chocolate frequently when melting, and always check after minimum time specified in recipe.

Overheating chocolate chips when melting can result in scorching and a plastic-like, hardened mass — or in "crumbs" of dried-out chocolate. If this happens, add 1 or 2 tablespoons of vegetable shortening (not butter or margarine) per 6 ounces of chocolate; stir until fluid.

Do not allow chocolate to come into contact with wet utensils during melting as this can result in a cohesive, hardened lump. Should this occur, add shortening as directed above.

For an easy chocolate candy coating, combine 2 cups semisweet chocolate chips with 1/4 cup grated food-grade paraffin. Microwave at medium-high (70 percent power) setting about three minutes; stir until smooth. Microwave again at medium-high setting one to 1 1/2 minutes, if necessary. Stir until smooth. Use white warm to coat homemade candies, pretzels, fresh whole strawberries or to dip corners of plain butter cookies.

Out of chocolate chips? In some recipes, you may replace 6 ounces (1 cup) of chocolate chips with 1/4 cup cocoa plus 1/4 cup sugar plus 1/4 butter or margarine.

Ever wonder why chocolate is so popular for Valentine's Day? It might be because chocolate contains a small amount of energizing caffeine and a tiny amount of theobromine (a mildly addic-

tive stimulant) as well as a hint of phenylethylamine (a chemical that has been linked to romantic feelings).

(Recipes in this column are tested in 625-watt microwave ovens.)

**MICRO-TIP OF THE WEEK**  
How to tell when chocolate chips are melted? Microwave chips will hold their shape as they melt; they will look soft and puffy and the surface will appear shiny. With stirring, chocolate will become smooth.

**DELICIOUS HAYSTACKS**  
1 (6-ounce) package (1 cup) semisweet chocolate chips  
1 (6-ounce) package (1 cup) butterscotch chips  
1 (3-ounce) can crispy chow mein noodles  
1 cup crispy rice cereal  
1/4 cup salted Spanish peanuts

Preparation time: 5 minutes  
Cooking time: 2 1/4 to 4 minutes  
Oven setting: medium-high (70 percent power)  
Combine chocolate and butterscotch chips in 2-quart microwave-safe casserole. Microwave 2 1/4 to 4 minutes, stirring every minute, until chips can be stirred smooth.

Fold in all remaining ingredients until evenly coated. Drop by teaspoons onto waxed paper-lined baking sheet and let stand until firm. Yields about 4 dozen clusters.

**COCONUT ROCKY ROAD BITES**  
1 (6-ounce) package (1 cup) semisweet chocolate chips  
2 tablespoons milk  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
2 cups miniature marshmallows  
1 1/2 cups chopped walnuts  
1 cup shredded coconut  
dash salt

Preparation time: 10 to 15 minutes  
Cooking time: 1 to 3 minutes  
Oven setting: medium-high (70 percent power)  
Combine chocolate chips and milk in medium-sized microwave-safe mixing bowl. Microwave 1 to 3

minutes, stirring every minute, until chocolate chips are melting.

Stir in all remaining ingredients, mixing well. Let cool slightly, then form into small balls. Place on waxed paper-lined baking sheet and refrigerate until set. Yields about 2 1/2 dozen candies.

**FUDGE CREME FROSTING**  
1 cup granulated sugar  
1/4 cup butter or margarine  
1/4 cup evaporated milk  
1 (6-ounce) package (1 cup) semisweet chocolate chips  
1 cup marshmallow creme  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1/4 teaspoon salt

Preparation time: 5 to 10 minutes  
Cooking time: 3 to 4 minutes  
Oven setting: MEDIUM-HIGH (70 percent power)  
In medium-sized microwave-safe mixing bowl combine sugar, butter or margarine, and evaporated milk. Microwave, uncovered, 2 to 4 minutes, stirring every minute, until mixture is bubbly.

Immediately add all remaining ingredients, stirring until chocolate chips are melted and mixture is smooth and creamy. Use to frost brownies or layer cake. Yields about 2 cups frosting.

**EASY CHOCOLATE CHIP FUDGE**  
1 1/2 cups (14-ounce can) sweetened condensed milk (NOT evaporated)  
1 (12-ounce) package (2 cups) semisweet chocolate chips  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
1 cup chopped salted almonds

Preparation time: 2 1/4 to 4 minutes  
Cooking time: medium-high (70 percent power)  
Combine condensed milk and chocolate chips in medium-sized microwave-safe mixing bowl. Microwave 2 1/4 to 4 minutes, or until chips are softened and can be stirred smooth. Stir in vanilla. Spread evenly in buttered 8-inch square pan. Sprinkle lightly with chopped almonds and press in gently. Cover and chill until firm. Cut into 1-inch squares. Yields about 5 dozen squares.

## Pressure

Continued from 1

If you are in the market for a new pressure cooker, do your homework before going to the store. Better yet, visit the Kitchen Witch at 107 N. Center St. in Northville this Saturday, March 16, at noon and learn about the magic of pressure cooking from the master herself. Toula will demonstrate the recipe included here and answer questions.

Her class is fun, informative and free. If you're as lucky as me, Toula will autograph your book. Surely it will be appreciated for generations. Call the Kitchen Witch at 348-0488.



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## Pritikin diet still requires getting the fat out

Polished and tan, Robert Pritikin looks very much like a living advertisement for the program his father Nathan began more than 20 years ago. Though most people associate the name Pritikin with weight loss, in fact it is a lifestyle.

Diet, exercise and stress management are all part of a program which goes by the credo "Live Your Life In Your Prime."

After years of concentrating on research to support their clinical findings, the Pritikin people are reaching out to the community at large via the "Eat Healthy! Live Healthy!" program. Events include a free evening seminar with Pritikin, which was held last week at the Townsend Hotel in Birmingham; the Pritikin Culinary Classic, a chef's competition (not open to the general public) Monday, Feb. 4, at Schoolcraft College; and free, educational handouts in local food stores which began last month.

The point of this program "is to let people know that they can eat well without compromising taste or lifestyle," says Pritikin, who is director of the Pritikin Longevity Center.

Citing numerous studies, Pritikin points to dietary fat as the culprit which leads to the major causes of death in the United States: heart disease, cancer and diabetes. People in countries like China eat a 10-percent fat diet and consequently have a much lower incidence of these life-threatening diseases.

The Pritikin Program advocates a diet of 10 percent calories from fat. Getting the fat out of what we eat is the bottom line, according to Pritikin, whose plan is said to reduce average blood cholesterol by 23 percent in three weeks.

This is no small feat for Americans whose diet straddles the 30- to 40-percent range of calories derived from fat. When one considers that food which derives 30 percent of its calories from fat can be labeled low-fat, this is not surprising. And although Americans appear to have become more health-food conscious in recent years, Pritikin maintains that things haven't changed all that much.

In 1978, one study revealed that Americans ate a diet made up of 40 percent fat. In 1989, despite an increased interest in nutrition, fat in the American diet was reduced by only 3 percent.

People deceive themselves, Pritikin explains. They may eat more vegetables but they still fry them in oil.

## Credo is eat healthy, live hearty

These recipes are provided by the Pritikin Program and include Pritikin products available in area supermarkets.

**STIR-FRIED BEEF AND BROCCOLI**

1/2 pound well-trimmed boneless top sirloin steak (about 1 inch thick)  
3 cups small broccoli florets  
2 tablespoons dry sherry or water  
1 tablespoon cornstarch  
1 cup Pritikin Chicken Broth  
2 teaspoons "light" soy sauce (light sodium)

2 cloves garlic, minced  
1 to 2 teaspoons finely grated fresh ginger  
1/2 to 1/4 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes  
2 cups cooked brown rice

Slice steak into 1/4-by-2-inch strips. Lightly spray 10-inch skillet with no-stick cooking spray. Heat skillet over medium-high heat until hot. Add beef and broccoli; stir-fry 3 to 5 minutes or until beef is no longer pink. Combine sherry and cornstarch; stir in remaining ingredients except rice. Pour over beef and broccoli; cook 2 to 3 minutes or until

sauce has thickened, stirring constantly. Serve with brown rice. 4 servings.

**ITALIAN PASTA SALAD**

4 ounces Pritikin Rotini Salad  
One 14-ounce can water-packed artichokes, rinsed and drained  
1/2 cup cherry tomatoes, quartered  
1/2 cup mushrooms, halved  
1 small red pepper, cut into strips  
1 small red onion, cut into strips  
1/2 teaspoon black pepper  
One 8-ounce bottle Pritikin Italian Dressing

Cook rotini as package directs; rinse with cold water and drain. Combine all ingredients in large bowl. Cover and refrigerate 2 hours before serving. 6 servings.

**Nutrition Information (per serving):**  
Calories, 110; Protein, 4g; Carbohydrate, 24g; Total Fat, 1g; Cholesterol, 0mg; Dietary Fiber, 3g; Sodium, 95mg. Percent of calories from fat: 6.

**TEX-MEX BEAN CHILI**

1 medium onion, chopped  
1 medium green bell pepper, chopped

Two 14 1/2 ounce cans no-salt-added tomatoes, drained and chopped (reserve liquid)  
3 cups cooked kidney beans or two 15-ounce cans, rinsed and drained  
1 cup Pritikin Spaghetti Sauce  
1 tablespoon chili powder  
2 teaspoons ground cumin  
1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper

Lightly spray large saucepan or Dutch oven with no-stick cooking spray. Cook onion and green pepper over medium-high heat 3 to 4 minutes or until peppers are crisp-tender, stirring frequently. Add remaining ingredients; mix well. Cover; reduce heat to low. Simmer 25 to 30 minutes. 8 servings.

**Nutrition Information (per serving):**  
Calories, 130; Protein, 8g; Carbohydrate, 25g; Total Fat, 1g; Cholesterol, 0mg; Dietary Fiber, 3g; Sodium, 95mg. Percent of calories from fat: 6.

What about the use of cholesterol-free oils? Pritikin again refers to studies which demonstrate that eating

polyunsaturated fat indirectly stimulates the production of cholesterol. Additionally, he points out that by eating fried foods one nurtures a taste for them. Ironically, according to Pritikin, people are born with an innate preference for sweets. A taste for fat is cultivated.

He also attributes the failure of most weight-loss diets to the focus on portion control instead of the elimination of fats. "Buy a frozen diet dinner and see how small it looks on a dinner plate," he recommends. Analyze its contents and you will discover that the portion is small because the fat content is so high. Fat is so calorically dense that it requires portion control.

Pritikin maintains, and he cites several studies again to back him up, that a person on a fat-free diet can eat as much as he wants and still lose weight. "A person should be able to walk away from the table feeling satisfied," he says.

One of the many diet pitfalls is dining out, and although restaurants are trying to offer more healthful options, Pritikin believes the choices are still too limited. "We go out to eat as a reward and end up punishing ourselves by eating and drinking the wrong things," he says emphatically.

It is hoped that the Culinary Classic will inspire noted chefs — including Steven Allen of the Golden Mushroom in Southfield, Ed Janos of Too Chee In Novi, and others — to create culinary adventures using Pritikin-approved foods.

"Fat-free food that is prepared well is wonderful," Pritikin says, "and it should have a regular place on the menus of all fine eating establishments."

How does one adapt to a fat-free diet, especially in a world of microwaveable and fast foods? According to Pritikin, planning ahead is key. "If you keep your kitchen stocked with healthful foods that are easy to prepare, eating well will become second nature," he says confidently.

The Pritikin Eating Plan recommends choosing more whole grains, fruits, legumes and vegetables and less fat, cholesterol and sodium. The Pritikin Program provides a range of tools to help people implement these choices, including books, stress reduction and exercise tapes, seminars and other educational vehicles. Pritikin brand foods and Pritikin Longevity Centers.

## Chefs strut their stuff at seminar

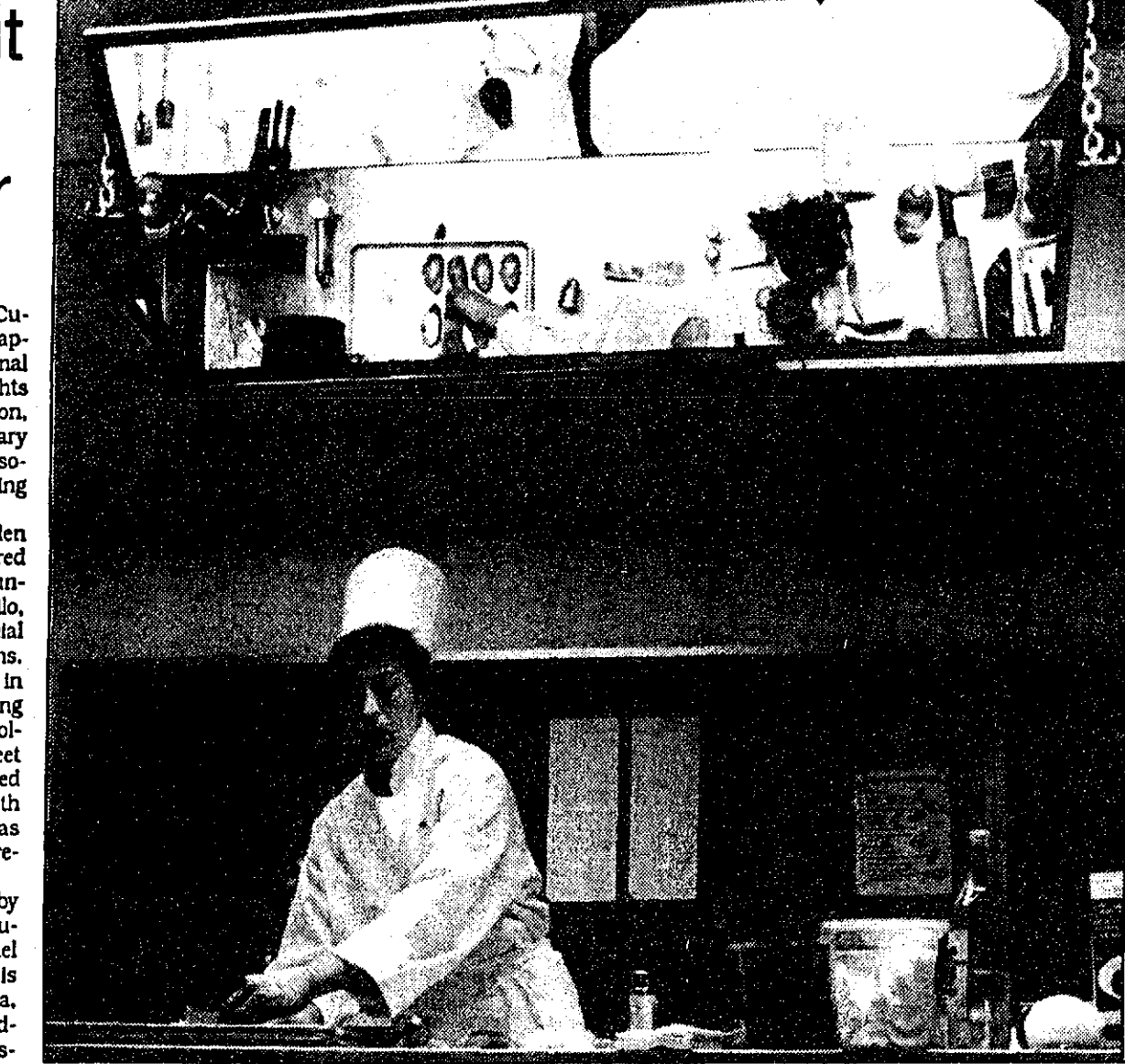
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brief was a member of the 1984 Canadian Olympic Team, and was captain of the 1988 Culinary Regional Olympic Team. He gave his thoughts on preparing food for competition, and spoke about 1990 Culinary Olympic food trends and philosophies of past and present winning chefs.

Milos Chelka, chef of the Golden Mushroom in Southfield, prepared an impressive baked, stuffed flounder with shrimp, mousseline in filo and Omelette Stephanie, a special fruit-filled dessert baked in fry pans.

William J. Hall of Arriva Italia in Warren highlighted Italian cooking from the Tuscany region. Brian Polyn, chef partner of the Pike Street Restaurant in Pontiac, demonstrated the popular Southwest cuisine, with his own touches thrown in. He has opened a new Southwest-style restaurant called Chimayo.

A British flair was exhibited by Leisa Tompkins-Hoffman and Pauline Palazzolo of the Townsend Hotel in Birmingham. The Townsend is known for its classic English tea, which is often booked weeks in advance. Palazzolo and Tompkins-Hoffman demonstrated tea brewing and service, along with preparation of pastries, English trifles and scones.



Chef Leisa Tompkins-Hoffman demonstrates tea sandwiches, canapes and mini-pastries

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• EAST DETROIT 2201 KELLY between R & 9 Mile Rd. 778-7020  
• ANN ARBOR 525 WESTERN west of I-24 522-3340  
• FLINT 4251 MILLER across from Genesee Valley Mall 313-732-5580  
• FARMINGTON HILLS 7747 ORCHARD LAKE RD. 311-1246  
• SAGINAW 500 W. 18th Street NW of Travers City 616-238-0700  
• TRAVERSE CITY 107 E. FRONT St. (Bay Side Entrance) 616-841-1999  
• GRIFFIN PARKS 2025 S.E. between Brown & Kalamazoo 616-852-1189  
• NOVI 1000 CENTER south of I-96 on Novi Rd. 347-3333  
• EAST LANSING 2425 SAGINAW at Abbott 517-337-9966  
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# MONDAY

## 009 Entertainment

**KEYBOARDIST** with vocal talents seeking for wedding/celebration bands. Call Greg, (313)486-0474.

**SUNGLASSES** Donated by CHANGES. Friday, March 22, 8:30am to 11:30am. Call (313)787-3022 for information.

**SOUND CONNECTION** DJs for all occasions. Call Tom or Larry, (313)752-4325 after 5pm.

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## 020 Open House

**HOWELL** Open Sunday March 11. 12:30pm. Unbeatable deal! Spacious 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath second floor. Tastefully decorated. 2516 1/2 acre lot with wraparound entertainment deck. Call (313)463-2020.

**HIGHLAND** 1470 3 bedroom. 2 1/2 bath. Full kitchen. Call (313)787-3022.

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**NOVI MEADOWS** MOBILE HOME COMMUNITY. NEW AMERICAN LIFESTYLE. We have new and pre-owned homes for sale. Home ownership is the best investment you can make. Call (313)349-6956.

## 031 Vacant Property

**HOWELL TOWNSHIP** Beautiful lot on paved road, convenient to Howell. DONT MISS YOUR BEST BUY AT \$17,000. Call (313)748-0900.

**SOUTH LYON** 3 plus wooded acres in cul-de-sac in desirable Suburban. Street runs through back. 2 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath. \$12,900. Call (313)748-0900.

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**NORTHVILLE** Kings Mill. Call (313)748-0900.

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**NORTHVILLE** Kings Mill. Call (313)748-0900.

## 035 Real Estate

**11-5 ACRES** in Millard area to build house. (313)252-547, after 4:30pm.

**NOVI** 1800 sq ft. 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. Call (313)748-0900.

**NOVI** 1800 sq ft. 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. Call (313)748-0900.

## 036 Real Estate

**OAKLAND** Hills, 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. \$600 each. (313)787-3022.

**NOVI** 1800 sq ft. 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. Call (313)748-0900.

**NOVI** 1800 sq ft. 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. Call (313)748-0900.

## 037 New Hudson

**3 BEDROOM** ranch, attached 2 car garage. Call (313)252-547, after 4:30pm.

**NOVI** 1800 sq ft. 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. Call (313)748-0900.

**NOVI** 1800 sq ft. 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. Call (313)748-0900.

## 041 Brighton

**OAKLAND** Hills, 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. \$600 each. (313)787-3022.

## 043 Duplexes For Rent

**BRIGHTON** 4 bedrooms, 2 car garage. Call (313)227-1543.

**MILFORD** Levelly 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. Call (313)227-1543.

## 044 Apartments For Rent

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**HOWELL** 2 bedroom apartment. Call (313)227-1543.

## 045 Real Estate

**NOVI** 1800 sq ft. 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. Call (313)748-0900.

**NOVI** 1800 sq ft. 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. Call (313)748-0900.

## 046 Real Estate

**OAKLAND** Hills, 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. \$600 each. (313)787-3022.

**NOVI** 1800 sq ft. 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. Call (313)748-0900.

## 047 New Hudson

**3 BEDROOM** ranch, attached 2 car garage. Call (313)252-547, after 4:30pm.

**NOVI** 1800 sq ft. 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. Call (313)748-0900.

## 048 Real Estate

**OAKLAND** Hills, 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. \$600 each. (313)787-3022.

**NOVI** 1800 sq ft. 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. Call (313)748-0900.

## 049 Real Estate

**OAKLAND** Hills, 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. \$600 each. (313)787-3022.

**NOVI** 1800 sq ft. 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. Call (313)748-0900.

## 050 Real Estate

**OAKLAND** Hills, 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. \$600 each. (313)787-3022.

**NOVI** 1800 sq ft. 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. Call (313)748-0900.

## 051 Real Estate

**OAKLAND** Hills, 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. \$600 each. (313)787-3022.

**NOVI** 1800 sq ft. 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. Call (313)748-0900.

## 052 Real Estate

**OAKLAND** Hills, 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. \$600 each. (313)787-3022.

**NOVI** 1800 sq ft. 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. Call (313)748-0900.

## 053 Real Estate

**OAKLAND** Hills, 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. \$600 each. (313)787-3022.

**NOVI** 1800 sq ft. 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. Call (313)748-0900.

## 054 Real Estate

**OAKLAND** Hills, 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. \$600 each. (313)787-3022.

## 054 Real Estate

**OAKLAND** Hills, 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. \$600 each. (313)787-3022.

**NOVI** 1800 sq ft. 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. Call (313)748-0900.

## 055 Real Estate

**OAKLAND** Hills, 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. \$600 each. (313)787-3022.

**NOVI** 1800 sq ft. 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. Call (313)748-0900.

## 056 Real Estate

**OAKLAND** Hills, 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. \$600 each. (313)787-3022.

**NOVI** 1800 sq ft. 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. Call (313)748-0900.

## 057 Real Estate

**OAKLAND** Hills, 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. \$600 each. (313)787-3022.

**NOVI** 1800 sq ft. 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. Call (313)748-0900.

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**OAKLAND** Hills, 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. \$600 each. (313)787-3022.

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**NOVI** 1800 sq ft. 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. Call (313)748-0900.

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**OAKLAND** Hills, 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. \$600 each. (313)787-3022.

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**OAKLAND** Hills, 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. \$600 each. (313)787-3022.

**NOVI** 1800 sq ft. 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. Call (313)748-0900.

## 063 Real Estate

**OAKLAND** Hills, 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. \$600 each. (313)787-3022.

**NOVI** 1800 sq ft. 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. Call (313)748-0900.

## 064 Real Estate

**OAKLAND** Hills, 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. \$600 each. (313)787-3022.

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**OAKLAND** Hills, 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. \$600 each. (313)787-3022.

**NOVI** 1800 sq ft. 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. Call (313)748-0900.

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**OAKLAND** Hills, 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. \$600 each. (313)787-3022.

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**NOVI** 1800 sq ft. 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. Call (313)748-0900.

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**OAKLAND** Hills, 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. \$600 each. (313)787-3022.

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**NOVI** 1800 sq ft. 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. Call (313)748-0900.

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**NOVI** 1800 sq ft. 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. Call (313)748-0900.

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**OAKLAND** Hills, 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath. \$600 each. (313)787-3022.

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