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MC
MARCH

Number 89
Two Sections
14 Pages plus Supplements

the NOVI NEWS

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Photos by BRYAN MITCHELL

Bond offer to save millions in tax dollars

By JAN JEFFRES
Staff Writer

Lots of verbal back-patting was going on in city hall Thursday night, as the council accepted a bid low enough to save Novi \$3 million in interest payments on the sale of \$15.9 million in park and road bonds.

Taxpayers will pay off the debt at a 4.9999 percent interest rate over the next 19 years.

In preparing for the bond sales for the voter-approved park and road improvement programs, a 6-percent interest rate was estimated.

"This is certainly good news. It really is startling to see a bond rate less than 5 percent. When I looked at it I thought it was a typo," Mayor Matthew Quinn said.

The figure is substantially below the bond market, Novi's bond attorney Dennis Nieman told the council.

"We really have some extraordinary results. Basically, we have a 'Who's Who' of underwriter firms

around the U.S. interested in your bonds," he said. "Four point nine percent, that is really extraordinary."

"Did you hear that, extraordinary," City Manager Edward Kriewall followed up.

The bonds will be purchased by Kemper Securities, Inc., Security Bank and Trust Company and Michigan National Bank, which edged out four other bidders. Over the 19 years, the total interest cost on the \$15.9 million will be \$9.9 million.

Novi's recent upgrading by the New York rating agency Standard & Poor's from an A to A+ rating cut back the interest rates by .2 percent, saving \$400,000 alone in reduced interest payments, Nieman explained.

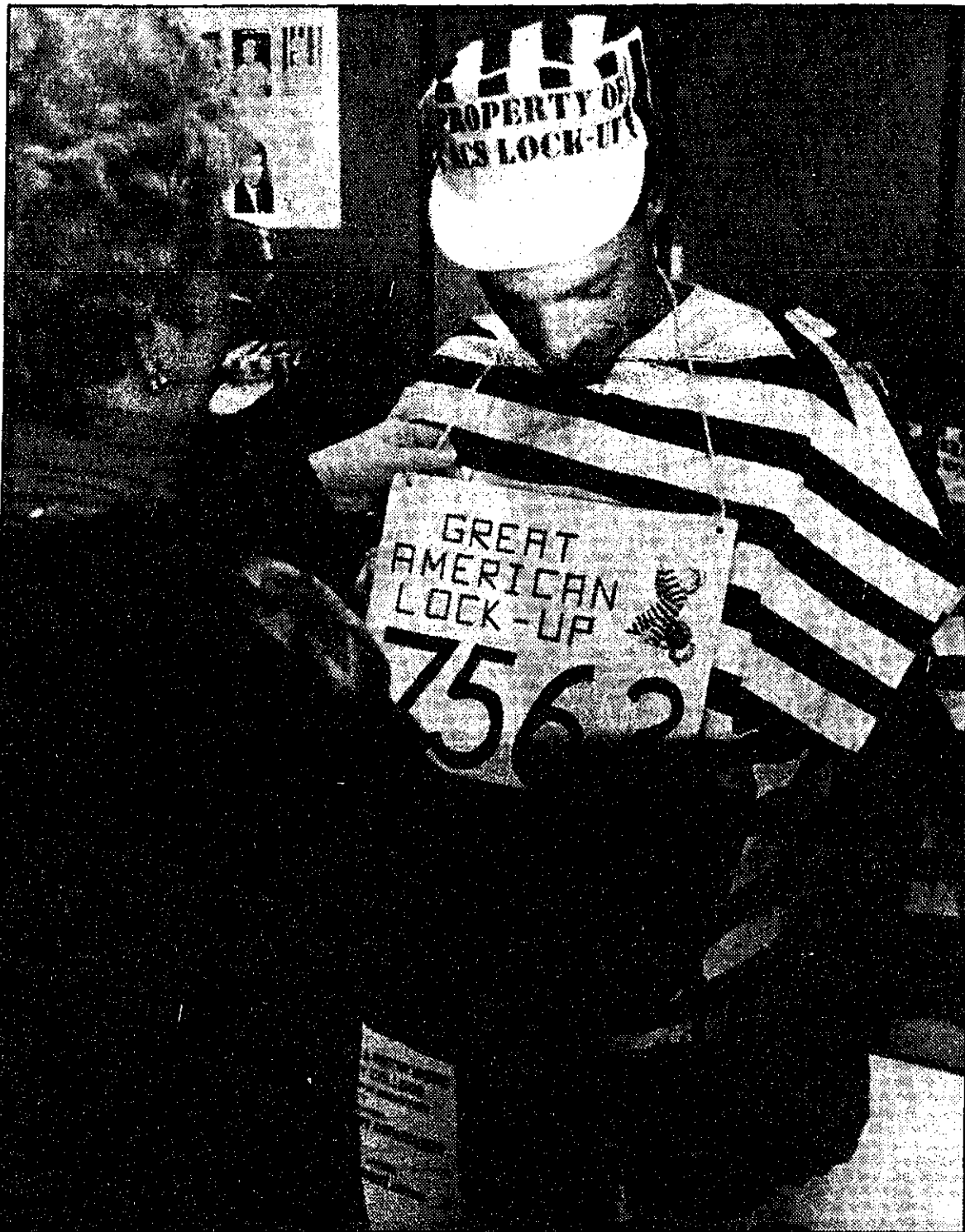
The city will get the money March 18.

The City of Novi's name seems to be as good as gold in the financial world for several reasons, although a slight improvement in the bond

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Busted

Don't they look good in stripes? And it's all for a good cause. Dozens of local folks were "arrested" last week as part of a fundraising drive for the American Cancer Society. The Great American Lockup, which took place at Novi's Sheraton Oaks hotel, raised money to continue the battle against cancer. At right, Steven Schott gets prepped for his mug shot before being sent to raise his \$1,000 bail via the telephone. Above, J.R. Atiyeh tries to coax a caller into helping him raise his \$3,500 bail. Atiyeh was locked up for allegedly committing the heinous crime of eating too many paczkis.



Novi woman bilked by scholarship scam

By CRISTINA FERRIER
Staff Writer

A Novi woman may be out \$220 after falling victim to a scholarship scam believed to be operating around the Detroit area.

According to Novi police reports, the woman wrote two checks to a company calling itself "Scholarship Services" for help in finding college scholarships for her daughter.

The scam is believed to operate like this: A man identifying himself as a representative of Scholarship Services calls on the phone and offers to do a computer search of all

available scholarships for which a given student is eligible.

The victim then agrees to set up an appointment with the caller, at which time the "representative" comes to the victim's home to discuss the service.

The victim is told that the service costs \$199. If the victim agrees to pay the fee, he or she is given a detailed application to complete in exchange for the fee. The victim fills out the application and mails it in, along with another \$20 processing fee.

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Suspect arraigned in credit card thefts

By CRISTINA FERRIER
Staff Writer

One of two Andover High School students accused of running a fraud ring — in which a number of other students stole credit cards from their parents and used them to purchase goods at Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi — was arraigned in Walled Lake 52-1 District Court Wednesday.

Frederick Binno, 18, faces one felony count for fraudulent use of a financial transaction device. His preliminary exam is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. March 12 before Judge

Harold Bulgarelli.

The other suspect, Daniel Lin, was scheduled for 8:30 a.m. arraignment today, March 8. The Oakland County Prosecutor's Office has already issued a seven-count felony warrant against him, and Novi Police said he has been cooperating through an attorney.

Both suspects are free at this time. Binno posted \$1,000 bond Wednesday.

Novi Police Officer Vere Wirwille, who has been investigating this case since December, believes the

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Novi may end sidewalk mandate

By RANDY COBLE
Staff Writer

The Feb. 23 joint meeting of Novi officials was a walk on the wild side as members of the City Council — on the advice of the Planning Commission — decided to take a second look at the city's residential sidewalk ordinance.

Currently, Novi requires all new subdivisions and condominium complexes (R-1 through R-4) to have sidewalks on both sides of its internal streets. The measure passed last year on a 4-3 vote by the council. Now, however, the council has decided to explore the possibility of modifying or eliminating the requirement.

Council members and commissioners debated whether it was proper for city government to require sidewalks, or to let developers choose whether to build them and let homeowners decide whether to buy homes in subdivisions with them.

Modifications to the ordinance could include requiring sidewalks only on one side of the street, or only in higher-density subdivisions.

Staff Planner Michael Csapo said that traffic studies proved true the common-sense notion that sidewalks lower vehicle/pedestrian accidents. Subdivisions without sidewalks, or with only wide road shoulders, are not as safe accord-

ing to the studies, Csapo said.

"My problem with having sidewalks," said Council member Robert Schmid, "is that there are other issues here besides safety. It's about freedom of choice. Parents have the wherewithal to decide if it's important to them (to live in a subdivision with sidewalks)."

Schmid also cited the cost and time of maintenance and snow removal for homeowners who must maintain the required sidewalks.

"It's about personal preference," Commissioner Laura Lorenzo said. "Whenever over-regulation of government infringes on (a homeowner's) freedoms, we have a real problem."

Others favored the current standard.

"I'm in favor of sidewalks on both sides," Council Member Joseph Toth said. "It adds to the community."

Commissioner Secretary Timothy Gilberg said he felt that sidewalks were very important, especially in high-density residential areas.

"When did sidewalks become an option?" he asked. "It's a safety issue. Kids walk in the road and play in the road all the time. We have to weigh choice and safety."

In the end, the council decided it would consider revising the sidewalk ordinance later this month.

In a related matter, the council asked City

Manager Edward Kriewall to investigate Novi's policy on sidewalk construction.

When a legally declared right of way for a sidewalk exists on a property, city ordinance says, the property's owners must install sidewalks. The city requires owners to give Novi a financial guarantee, before building on their property, equal to the cost of the sidewalk's construction.

The money is returned when the owner completes the sidewalk. If it is not done, the city can do a number of things to see them built, including denying the owner a certificate of occupancy, or in the worst case, using the money to bid the work out.

The problem, officials said, is that the system isn't functioning as intended. Some owners receive their money back even though they have not built sidewalks, or the city has not pursued the sidewalk construction fully.

"There hasn't been a full-court press to see that these sidewalks are built," said Gilberg. "This is not a new issue; it's been around for awhile."

Mayor Matthew Quinn asked Kriewall to check into the situation and get an updated list of property owners who are in violation of the ordinance.

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WHAT'S INSIDE?



Community Calendar

Today, March 8

Senior parents: Novi High School Senior All-Night Party parents meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in Room 107 of the high school.

American Business Women's Assoc.: The Novi Oaks Chapter of the American Business Women's Association will meet at Country Epicure Restaurant on Grand River. Social hours at 6:30 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m. followed by a general membership meeting. Cost is \$15. For reservations contact Catherine Terzes at 348-6565. All working women are invited to join.

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

Tuesday, March 9

Chess Club: The Novi Chess Club will meet from 7-10 p.m. at the Novi Civic Center. There is no charge to attend and all players are welcome. For more information, call Tim Sawmiller at 34-9833 evenings after 6 p.m.

Band rehearsal: The Novi Concert Band rehearses at 7:30 p.m. in the band room at Novi High School. For more information on the group, call manager Warren Ledger at 348-2955.

Camera Club: The Novi Camera Club meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Novi Civic Center. For more information, call Hugh Crawford at 349-5079.

Wednesday, March 10

Parent Conferences: Novi High School parent/teacher conferences will be held from 6-9 p.m.

Lions Club: The Novi Lions Club will meet at Kim's Gardens at 6:30 p.m. for dinner followed by a meeting.

Seniors potluck: The Novi Senior Citizens will gather at noon in the Novi Civic Center for their monthly potluck luncheon.

SPARK: The Society for the Preservation of American Racing Knowledge, the all-volunteer support organization for the Motorsports Hall of Fame of America, meets at 7 p.m. at the Novi Expo Center. The meeting is open to anyone interested in supporting the Hall of Fame and Museum.

Youth baseball: The board of directors of Novi Youth Baseball meets at 7:00 p.m. in the Novi Civic Center. The meeting is open to the public.

Thursday, March 11

Parent Conferences: Novi High School parent/teacher conferences will be held from 6-9 p.m.

Historical Commission: The Novi Historical Commission will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Novi Civic Center in the Manager's Conference Room (2nd floor).

Friday, March 12

Novi High School: There will be a half day of school with dismissal at 10:25 p.m.

at 10:25 p.m.

Saturday, March 13

Vegas Night: The Novi Lions Club will be hosting a Las Vegas Night Party from 7 p.m.-midnight at the Novi Bowl, 21700 Novi Rd. Proceeds will benefit Leader Dog, Penrickton Center and Welcome Home for the Blind and many other Lion charities.

Pinewood Derby: Novi Pack 50 of the Cub Scouts will be hosting its Pinewood Derby beginning at 9 a.m. in the Parkview Elementary School gym. Registration will be held Friday evening, March 12, from 6-8 p.m.

Monday, March 15

Orchard Hills PTO: Orchard Hills Elementary School PTO general meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. in the Orchard Hills library. Free babysitting will be provided by Girl Scout Troop 1847.

Band Boosters: The board of the Novi High School Band Boosters will meet from 7-9:15 p.m. in the high school band room.

Arts Council: The Novi Arts Council Executive Board will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the Novi Civic Center.

Tuesday, March 16

Novi Jaycees: The Novi Jaycees will hold an election of a Board of Directors at 8 p.m. at the Jaycee House on Sixthgate.

Choir Festival: The Novi High School Choir Festival Concert will be held at 7 p.m. in the school auditorium.

Garden Club: The Novi Garden Club will meet at 1 p.m. in the Novi Civic Center.

Band rehearsal: The Novi Concert Band rehearses at 7:30 p.m. in the band room at Novi High School. For more information on the group, call manager Warren Ledger at 348-2955.

Chess Club: The Novi Chess Club will meet from 7-10 p.m. at the Novi Civic Center. There is no charge to attend and all players are welcome. For more information, call Tim Sawmiller, 344-9833 evenings after 6 p.m.

Wednesday, March 17

Planning Commission: The Novi Planning Commission will meet in regular session in the Council Chambers of the Novi Civic Center.

Parents Meeting: Novi High School will hold a Parents and Principal Meeting at 7 p.m. in the school auditorium.

Thursday, March 18

Cub Scouts Cake Bake: Orchard Hills Cub Scouts, Pack 240 will hold their annual Father/Son Cake Bake and Auction in the Orchard Hills gym. This activity is for fun, but is also a fundraiser for the pack. Everyone is welcome.

City officials like new bond rates

Continued from Page 1

market helped, too.

He added that Standard & Poor's felt Novi's demographics were "superb," based on the population's age, average income and education level. The quality of the school district was another plus.

Census figures for 1990 show that the median household income in Novi is \$47,518 and that the average age group for residents is between 25 to 44 years old.

Thirty-three percent of the residents have a bachelor's degree or higher.

"The rating agencies don't upgrade easily. I really strongly feel you all should be very proud of what you're doing here. They're very tough with these ratings and they throw them around like you would throw around a man-hole cover. They like the financial position of the city," Wieman said.

"You have managed your growth very well. . . . They evaluate you versus all the communities in the coun-

try. They like you."

As far as growth goes, the statistics reflect that the majority of homes in Novi were built in the last 10 years.

The bond attorney said Standard & Poor's was also impressed with Novi's Finance Director Les Gibson and the recent visit to the agency paid by Gibson, Kriewall and Quinn.

The one-half-notch ratings increase puts Novi just below the highest ranked cities in the state—Grand Rapids, Midland and Lansing.

City road bond sales in 1991 were at a 6.50 percent interest and in 1992 went down to a 6.35 percent interest.

In January, the Novi school district achieved its own record low in bond interest rates of 6.03 percent. School district officials calculated that this rate would save taxpayers \$2.2 million less in interest rates than they had expected in December when voters approved a \$31.9 million bond sale for school improvements. Those bonds will require a total interest payback of \$31.3 million.

Rising lumber costs drive up home prices

Area builders say the cost of lumber has risen 85 percent since October.

"They are urging the federal government to respond to the lumber crisis situation, blaming an environmental act's impact on West Coast lumbering."

"The good news is that low interest rates have made homes more affordable and have increased demand for wood," said Fred I. Capaldi, president of the Builders Association of South-eastern Michigan (BASM) and president of Capaldi Building Company in Rochester Hills.

"However, lumber prices have risen so fast that builders fear that if the costs go much higher, it will drive home buyers away from the market. Escalating lumber prices are the most significant problem facing builders in 1993."

"In October 1992, average U.S. lumber price for 1,000 board feet was \$250. As of Feb. 19, the price had increased to \$464."

"Translated to a typical

2,000-square-foot single-family home, the rising price of lumber will increase costs by \$4,000.

"Lumber supply will continue to be a problem until Washington addresses the Endangered Species Act," said Irvin H. Yackness, executive vice president and general counsel for BASM.

The northern spotted owl, which was declared an endangered species in mid-1990, has stopped federal timber sales in regions of the Northwest and will stop logging in those areas by mid-1993. "Environmental laws which give no weight to economic concerns need to be changed to address the effect on the economy," Yackness added.

Capaldi and Yackness were part of the National Association of Home Builders meeting that concluded Monday, Feb. 22, in Las Vegas at its national convention.

Builders will be asking President Clinton to convene a summit to address the rapidly rising lumber prices.

Outdoor fun indoors

Outdoorama, sponsored by the Michigan United Conservation Clubs and which ran more than a week at the Novi Expo Center, proved to be one of the center's more popular shows. Those in attendance not only got a chance to see camping and sport equipment on display, but got a chance to try their hands at a number of outdoor activities. At right, Louis Tisch paints a duck decoy. Below, Mandy McKay learns how to shoot with the help of Kevin Barrett.

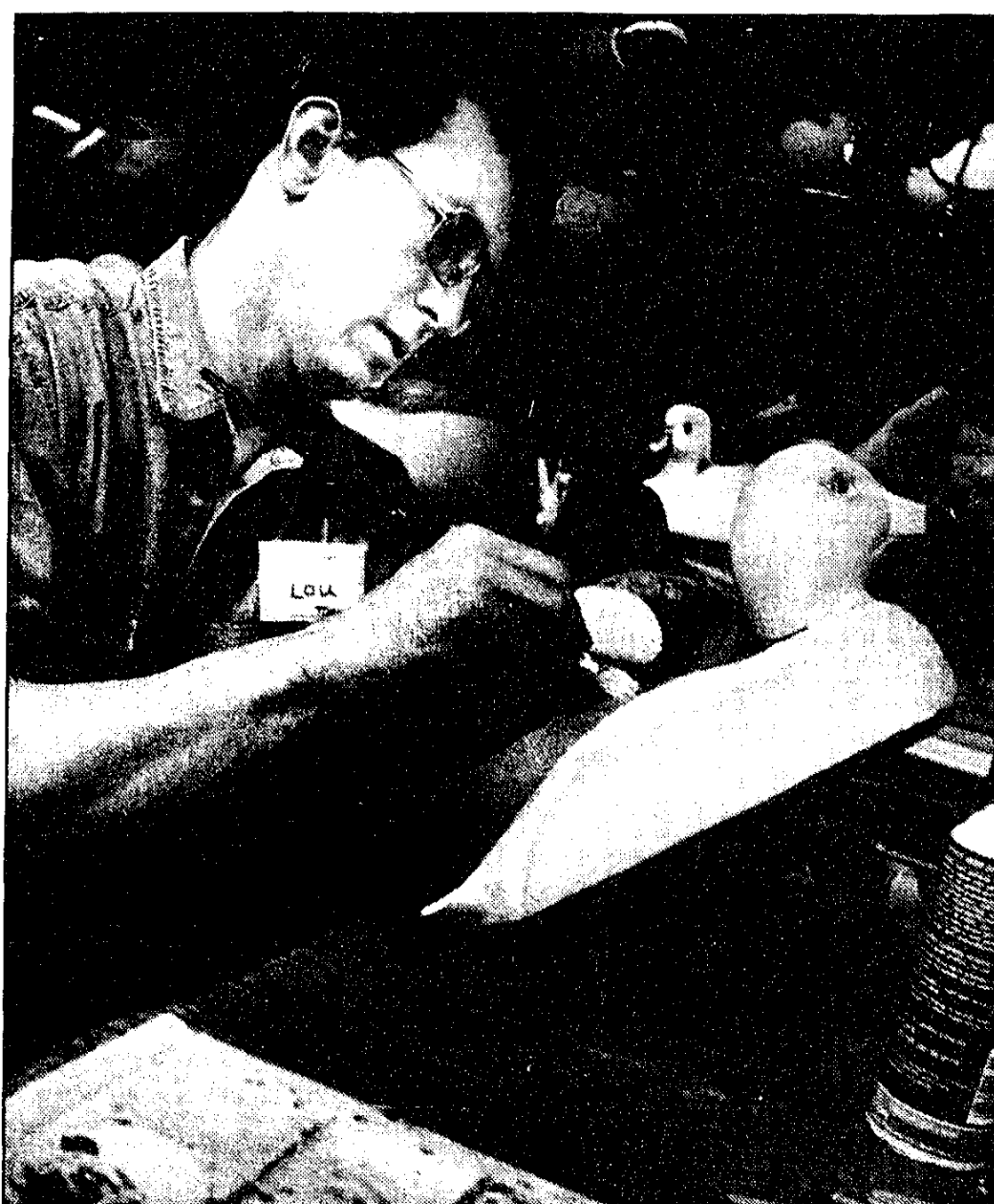


Photo by BRYAN MITCHELL



Photo by JON FREELICH

Angry taxpayers invited to forum

By JAN JEFFRES Staff Writer

Concerned about your property tax assessment increases? The Lakes Area Residents Association (LARA) is making it easy to funnel your complaints straight to the source, Lansing.

All Novi and Walled Lake residents are invited to a March 23 LARA meeting with state and city officials on the Michigan property tax situation.

On hand for sure will be State Rep. Willis Bullard, R-Milford, and Novi City Assessor James Klausmeyer.

Also invited but not yet confirmed are State Senator Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills, and State Senator David Honigman, R-West Bloomfield.

Several Novi City Council members are also expected to attend.

The focus will be on what can be

done to bring about tax reform. LARA President Harry Avagian said Friday.

Avagian said he's heard from a number of lakes area residents concerned about hikes in their assessments.

"People seem to be becoming educated. They realize the problem is really not on the local level. This is a high-interest topic," he said.

"It's almost as if people anticipated this after a year of a moratorium (on tax assessments) . . . Assessments seem to hit the lakes area more than anywhere else."

The meeting will be issue-oriented. Avagian cautioned, and not a place to protest for individual assessment problems.

The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. at the Walled Lake Middle School Media Center, 615 N. Pontiac Trail, Walled Lake.

Historical society plans antique appraisal show

Your old treasures can help the Novi Historical Society restore one of its old treasures.

No, the society's not asking you to hand over your prized possessions. But this weekend you can get your antiques appraised at \$3 an item by nationally-renowned expert and author Harry Rinker.

This money will then be turned over to the society to assist in the restoration of Novi's first firetruck, a 1930 REO-Boyer.

Rinker will provide a verbal appraisal. If your object is too large to carry in, provide a clear photograph. You may be interested in adding to

your collection. The Scorpio Productions antique show is running from March 12 to March 14 and will feature a variety of collectibles offered by 100 dealers.

Admission to the antique show is \$4.50 per person.

If you are just interested in the appraisal, you do not need to pay any entrance or parking fees for the show. The Novi Expo Center is just south of the I-96 exit on Novi Road.

Show hours are March 15, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.; March 13, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; and March 14, 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Local husband and father ends his life in trailer park

Novi police have ruled the Feb. 21 death of a 36-year-old Chateau Estates resident as a suspected suicide.

Police say the victim, who lived at his home on Charlemagne with his wife and 6-year-old daughter, was home alone when he shot himself with a .32 caliber semi-automatic pistol.

According to police reports, the man's wife arrived home shortly before 5 p.m. with her stepmother and found him lying on the couch. The stepmother sent his wife outside,

then called 9-1-1.

Police and fire officials at the scene said the man likely died several hours earlier. Police reported that the victim had a large head wound and the handgun was wedged between the couch cushion and the victim's hip.

Police said no suicide note was found. However, an answering machine tape that had recorded a conversation between the victim and his wife was confiscated as evidence. Police withheld the contents of the tape.

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Winning awards is the easy part

Life would be a breeze, if all we had to do was impress the judges of excellence in journalism contests. The Novi News has won 12 state and national awards for outstanding community journalism this year. In addition to earning the General Excellence Award from the Michigan Press Association, your hometown newspaper has also won two national awards from the National Newspaper Association and two more from Suburban Newspapers of America. The toughest judges of all, however, are you — our readers. Our secret to success? Give the people of Novi the type of paper they want to expect, and impressing the judges will be easy.

the NOVI NEWS

CHRISTIAN DIOR
 SUITS
 COLLECTION SHOW
 Thursday, March 11
 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Coats and Suits
 Birmingham
 Friday, March 12
 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Coats and Suits
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 See just how versatile a beautiful Christian Dior suit can be for you. Weddings or spring gatherings you'll look so stunning at your next special occasion. Sizes 4-16.
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Stickley
 The Mission Oak Collection
 SEMINAR
 Bloomfield Hills • Friday, March 12, 1 p.m.-3 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
 Novi • Saturday, March 13, 12 noon-2 p.m.
 Michael J. Daniel, Corporate Historian for the Stickley Furniture Company, will be at Scott Shuptrine Furniture to conduct a seminar on the Revival of the Arts and Crafts Movement. Stickley's reissue of their historic Mission Oak furniture has produced overwhelming excitement throughout the country. Collectors have paid thousands of dollars for the original, simple designs of Gustav and Leopold Stickley. Learn more about the Arts and Crafts Movement and see Scott Shuptrine's collection of reissued Stickley pieces.
 A Boxed Lunch will be served at the afternoon Bloomfield Hills seminar. The seminars are free but seating is limited. Call Bloomfield Hills 642-0070 or Novi 349-0044 for reservations.
 Novi • 4360 W. Oaks Dr. Bloomfield Hills • 4110 Telegraph Rd.
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Leon's employee assaulted in car

An employee of Leon's restaurant told police Feb. 19 that she was assaulted as she was leaving work. She said she finished her shift shortly after 8 p.m. and walked outside to her car. The car was parked in the Comerica Bank lot next door to the restaurant, which is on Ten Mile just west of Haggerty.

Police News

She told police that she didn't look at the suspect. Instead, she quickly put the car into gear and drove away. She drove to the Novi Bowl, where she called police. The woman was unable to provide any details about the suspect's appearance, except that he or she may have had a red sleeve or cuff.

Police searched the area for suspects, but found nothing. **BREAK-IN:** A resident on Cottisford reported Feb. 28 that someone kicked in the front door of his home, and stole over \$3,000 in various merchandise.

Reported missing, among other things, were guns, a mirror coat, and a television set.

SEX ASSAULT? A waitress at Whispers Lounge in the Novi Hilton told police she intends to file sexual assault charges against a patron who touched her thigh.

The patron insists he only touched her thigh because he mistook her for his girlfriend, who was dressed similarly. According to the suspect, the waitress walked up to the table with a tray of drinks and he thought she was his girlfriend. Without looking at her, he

said, he reached over and touched her thigh area just above the knee. But the waitress told police he touched her thigh much higher up on her leg, to the point where it could be called sexual assault. She charged that the suspect had been making loud, obscene remarks all evening.

After he touched her, she told a bouncer and then called police. Earlier that evening, another patron had to be moved to a table farther away from the suspect because the remarks were offending him. Police located the patron who had been moved, and he backed up her statements.

Police investigating the complaint said the waitress was wearing a multicolor blouse and black shorts. The suspect's girlfriend was wearing

a multicolor blouse and black mini skirt.

BREAK-IN: Novi police said someone apparently tried to break into the Rosewood Restaurant on Grand River Feb. 9, but was frightened away by the burglar alarm.

Police searched the area and found no suspects. However, the alarm company called the owners at home, rather than the police, and the owners had gone to the restaurant before calling the police.

The owners told officers that they did this because they didn't want to be fined for a false alarm.

According to police reports, the rear door of the building had been forced open, possibly with some type of pry bar. Nothing inside the building appeared to be disturbed.

Citizens with information about the above incidents are urged to call the Novi Police Tip Line at 349-6887.

Novi Briefs

Expo Update: City Manager Edward Kriewall expressed satisfaction March 1 about how city roads were weathering Outdoorama traffic at the Novi Expo Center.

Cars which can't fit into the Expo parking lot are being directed to the Novi Civic Center and passengers are then shuttled over. "The new shuttle location worked well. We can handle more cars than we did at the Buller's Show," Expo Center President Blair Bowman said.

"Novi Road traffic was very heavy, but it was not due to the Expo Center." He added that when show-generated traffic gets too heavy, the center is committed to paying off-duty Novi police to direct the vehicles. The center is discussing a plan with the Michigan Department of Transportation which would call for a jointly-financed landscaping program along I-96 as a trade-off for allowing Novi Expo to use some of the vacant land between its property and the freeway. One hundred more parking spaces could be created if this plan succeeds.

Appeals time: The Property Tax Board of Review dates have been set for March 8, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; March 9, noon to 9 p.m.; March 10, noon to 9 p.m.; March 11, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and March 12, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. All meetings will be held in the Assessor's office conference room in the Novi Civic Center.

Auction solicitors needed: Volunteers are needed to help organize and collect items for a major auction to support the handicapped children of the Tollgate Equestrian Program. Volunteers are needed with experience in sales, phone work, secretarial, corporate contracts or past fund-raising skills. Positions are also available for volunteers with no experience—just the willingness to help. Please call Cindy Richards at 347-3860, Ext. 217.

Build Your Own Home: Novi Community Education, in cooperation with Michigan Builders Institute, will offer a 24-hour, eight-session seminar on "How To Build Your Own Home." The course will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays beginning March 29, from 7 to 10 p.m. at Novi High School, 24062 Tall Rd.

The course will help people avoid making costly mistakes when building their own homes and to become more confident when working with a contractor. Classes cover the home building process from start to finish. Subjects include buying property, site planning, financing, building codes and permits and the basics of concrete, masonry, wood frame construction, roofing, plumbing, electrical, insulation and ventilation, dealing with subcontractors and more. The cost of the seminar is \$150 and includes a building book.

Pre-registration is required no later than Thursday, March 25, to Novi Community Education. Please call 344-8330, Ext. 15 to register during school office hours.

The course instructor is a licensed builder with extensive experience teaching builders' classes and will be able to answer questions related to all facets of home building. Michigan Builders Institute teaches in 66 schools throughout lower Michigan. For more information, call the Michigan Builders Institute at 651-2771.

Woman taken in scholar scam

Continued from Page 1

Then, the victim waits ... and waits ... and never hears from the representative again.

That is exactly the scenario that the Novi woman described to police. She could not be reached for comment by presstime.

She told police she was first contacted by Scholarship Services on

Nov. 23. She met with a representative at her home shortly after, at which time she gave him a check for \$199.

She mailed the application and another check for \$20 on Nov. 30. Both of her checks were cashed by Standard Federal Bank. They were deposited to an account in the name of Scholarship Services.

After a month of waiting, she tried

to contact Scholarship Services on Dec. 30. Each time she left a message on an answering machine, but her calls were never returned.

She then drove to the address listed on the application form. It turned out to be a vacant building in Livonia.

The Livonia Chamber of Commerce has no record of any business named Scholarship Services.

Police said the vacant building is registered to a Redford Township man.

Calls to Scholarship Services' phone number were answered by a machine on Friday. The recorded message said "This is Scholarship Services. Sorry we're not here to take your call at the moment, but of course it's very important for us to hear from you."

The course will help people avoid making costly mistakes when building their own homes and to become more confident when working with a contractor. Classes cover the home building process from start to finish. Subjects include buying property, site planning, financing, building codes and permits and the basics of concrete, masonry, wood frame construction, roofing, plumbing, electrical, insulation and ventilation, dealing with subcontractors and more. The cost of the seminar is \$150 and includes a building book.

Credit card ring teen goes to court

Continued from Page 1

charges against Lin and Bruno could be just the beginning of a string of cases against Andover High School students. He believes students involved were stealing credit cards from their parents or other students,

then trading them for cash or merchandise.

Those involved in the operation would then go on shopping sprees with the stolen cards until the owners reported them missing. Sometimes the cardholders did not realize

the cards were gone until a bill for the merchandise arrived.

All of the charges against Lin and Bruno are felonies that carry a maximum penalty of four years in prison. Charges expected to be addressed at Lin's arraignment today include six related to credit card fraud and a

seventh for possession of a pipe bomb.

Police discovered the pipe bomb in Lin's car after he was arrested for using a stolen credit card at the Sony Home Theatre store in Twelve Oaks Mall Jan. 14.

the NOVI NEWS

104 W. Main Street
Northville, Michigan 48167
(313) 349-1700

Opinions.

5A

MONDAY
March 8,
1993

As We See It

Adopting "first read" has many advantages

Novi City Council has tabled far too many issues far too frequently over the course of the past year. Pretty much, there seems to be a consensus of opinion on that point.



Government

No one would argue that each and every one of Novi's seven council members should have all the information they feel they need to make a decision before they are asked to vote, but the frequency with which the council is sending back items for more research or additional input has been a source of much frustration.

There's an emergency. Instead, it receives a "reading," which is often abbreviated to a quick explanation. It may get a few minutes of discussion, and then members vote simply on whether it should be "accepted for second reading."

It's frustrating to the council members themselves. They thought they were debating the issue to reach a conclusion, only to find they'll have to have the same argument next week. It's frustrating to city administrators, who thought they'd come prepared with all the data the council might possibly need.

The procedure may indeed curtail the tabling. On first reading, council members can detail to administrators exactly what information they will need to make their decision. But there are other good reasons for the procedure too.

And it's frustrating to citizens, who gave up a Monday evening to sit in council chambers or skipped *Murphy Brown* and *Northern Exposure* to watch on cable, expecting to see the council reach some kind of conclusion.

One of the most important is that it will give the public more opportunity for input. Even the most avid council watchers are occasionally surprised by a proposal that comes before the council, or will learn that an anticipated proposal will have unanticipated results. If they want to give input, with the first reading procedure, they will have a week or two to put together their information and get it into the council's hands.

The frequency with which council tables items was raised during a recent goal-setting session. City Manager Ed Kriewall suggested that the council simply send back more quickly the items on which it wants more info, rather than debating them for a half hour before finally voting to table.

Council members too are likely to find this procedure helpful. Having heard the proposal once, and with a bit of preliminary discussion, they'll have additional time to think it over, read and re-read it several times, weigh the pros and cons, and perhaps even discuss it with residents they come across.

One slightly better idea was proposed, to adopt a "first reading/second reading" approach to the adoption of ordinances. What that is a formalized delaying procedure, already in use in many other communities. The council cannot take action the first time a proposal is presented to it (except of course when

it's an approach that works well in other communities, and we urge it be adopted as a procedure in Novi as well.

Let the truckers park

Council members and the administration clearly wanted to avoid the possibility of a "truck stop" being located in Novi. "It's better to send out a signal you don't want them, period," said the city manager.

Make no mistake about it, Novi owes its status and current well-being in large part to commercial trade. Like it or not, the city has a substantial regional commercial business district. By way of comparison, Novi has relatively little manufacturing.

But there is a big difference between a "truck stop" and a couple of big parking spaces. A truck stop is typically a restaurant/filling station combination designed to attract truck drivers passing by on the freeway. Novi neither has the space available for such a facility nor a good interchange on which one could be developed. Truckers like their stops with lots of maneuvering space and minimal traffic.

What that means is that most of the goods sold out of Novi stores have to be shipped into the city in the first place ... or to use a more accurate term, they have to be "trucked" in.

The drivers likely to stop and eat in Novi are the ones who are already here, delivering the goods that keep Novi stores in business and which Novi residents buy for their own use.

Given that, it was somewhat surprising when Novi City Council rejected a proposed ordinance to mandate that new restaurants built in the vicinity of the expressway provide two 50-foot parking spaces, large enough to accommodate tractor-trailer vehicles.

It seems to us it's a shabby way to treat people who are working on behalf of city businesses and residents. Worse, it will perpetuate the current parking and safety problems.

The ordinance was proposed because truck drivers do stop at restaurants here in Novi now, and when they do they either use up a great deal of the available parking space or they park in places not intended for parking. Sometimes that's the shoulder of the road, and it can create an outright safety hazard.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

This newspaper welcomes letters to the editor. We ask, however, that they be issue-oriented, confined to 400 words and that they contain the signature, address, and telephone number of the writer. The writer's name may be withheld from publication if the writer fears bodily harm, severe persecution, or the loss of his or her job. The writer requesting anonymity must explain his or her circumstances. Submit letters for consideration by 4 pm Monday for that Thursday's paper. We reserve the right to edit letters for brevity, clarity, libel, and taste. The week prior to an election, this newspaper will not accept letters to the editor that open up new issues. Only responses to already published issues will be accepted, with this newspaper being the final arbiter. This policy is an attempt to be fair to all concerned. Submit letters to: Editor, The Novi News, 104 W. Main, Northville, MI 48167.

'Done deals' just aren't right



Phil Jerome

Novi's Board of Education ratified a contract with the Novi Education Association (NEA) at its last meeting. This column is, however, about the Novi school board any more than it is about the Northville school board or any other school board.

Here's what happened: Negotiators for the Novi school board and the Novi teachers' association have been working toward an agreement for some time. Eventually, the two negotiating teams hammered out a tentative agreement and sent it back to the teachers and the school board for ratification.

After the teachers okayed the tentative accord, the pact was brought to the school board which also voted approval. Now here comes the reason for concern.

The terms of the proposed settlement were not released for public scrutiny until after the pact had been signed, sealed and delivered ... until after it was absolutely too late to do anything about it.

We tried to get somebody to tell us the terms of the proposed settlement before it had been ratified, but neither side would say a word. In fact, the school board president (Ray Byers) seemed a little miffed that we would make such a request, saying there was no way he was going to allow the contract to be negotiated in the press.

My suspicion at this point is that some of you may be asking why I'm upset. After all, this is the way these matters have always been handled. And, yes, everybody knows it's wrong "to negotiate contracts in the press." So now I'm going to tell you what's wrong with the process.

A lot of people are upset about their property taxes and want to know why they're continually increasing. In the past, attempts have been made to blame property tax increases on rising assessments. And while it's true that assessment increases may, in fact, lead to higher taxes, the biggest problem is the other half of the property tax equation—the millage rate, which is a direct reflection of expenditures.

Point One: By far the largest portion of your property taxes go to the schools.

Point Two: By far the largest portion of the tax revenues collected by the schools goes for wages and fringe benefits. Typically, somewhere between 80 to 90 percent of any school district's budget goes for wages or fringe benefits.

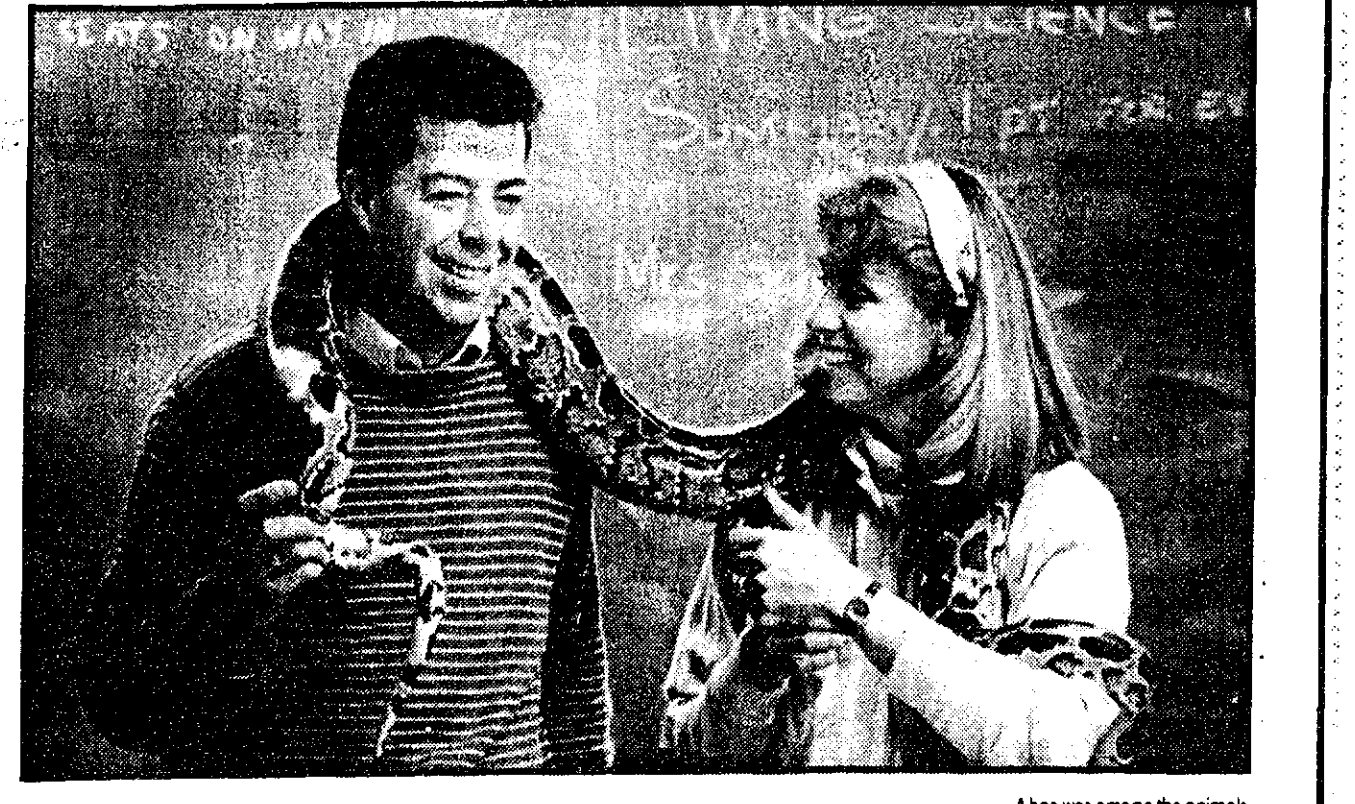
Point Three: By far the largest portion of school wages and fringe benefits are paid to teachers.

School boards are often criticized for cutting things like busing and athletics when they need to balance their budgets. But, as a practical matter, that's about all that's left to cut after you remove from consideration the 80-90 percent of the budget that goes into salaries and fringes.

School boards are required by law to hold public hearings before they adopt budgets for the upcoming fiscal year. But, when you stop to think about it, those hearings are really something of a charade when the driving force in any and all school budgets is the pay increase handed out to employees—particularly to teachers who are far and away the largest employee group. In light of that, it seems inherently anti-democratic to permit contracts to be ratified and wage increases established with no public scrutiny whatsoever. The way things are right now ... with no public disclosure before the contract is a done deal, the public has little chance for any input on the single most important factor in determining their property taxes. And that ain't right.

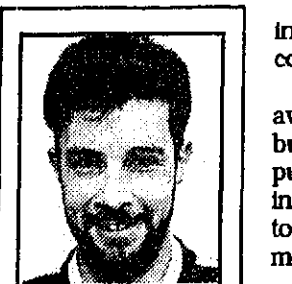
In passing

By Hal Gould



A boa was among the animals brought to Novi Middle School during a recent Living Science program.

Parent giving child excuses



Rick Byrne

I've been trying to coax Mom into moving to Michigan for a couple of years now. In the 10 years since I moved away, her apartment's been burglarized and she's had her purse snatched twice. The city in which I was born and raised, I told her, was getting dirtier and more violent.

But in an odd case of turnabout, the parent is giving the child excuses. She thinks she won't be able to get a job at her age. Never mind that she's only

overlook the obvious, I tried calling Mom's office. No answer. I rushed out of the office and headed home, hoping CNN could give me some information. The all-news channel was stuck in the middle of its *Sonja* Live show, and *Headline News* was into its sports segment.

She'd used the same words on me with equal authority many moons ago, so I could guess that he completed. The stairways to the street were packed with people, especially on the lower floors. There were no lights, not even daylight, and thick smoke made breathing difficult.

"The firemen gave me oxygen when I got outside," she said. "It was a good thing I wore a scarf. I was able to wrap it around my nose and mouth. A couple of people passed out on the stairs."

Soot from the fires covered everyone. My Mom, always colorful in her speech, said, "I looked like something from a minstrel show. There was black soot all over my face, in my clothes, in my hair."

Things are back to normal now, if normal means working in the Knight-Ridder offices for the next month or so. From where I sit, nothing seems normal in New York City anymore.

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

the NOVI NEWS

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Planners tighten belts with proposed 1993 budget

By RANDY COBLE
Staff Writer

It appears that 1993 will feature a leaner and meaner budget for the Novi Planning Commission.

Commissioners discussed how much money to request from the Novi City Council for the coming fiscal year at their Feb. 17 meeting. In the end, they decided to axe two programs, saving some \$20,000, and leaving a final budget figure of \$123,000. The commission is expected to submit its request to the council within the next 40-70 days.

The commission's attitude mirrored that of council members, who tightened the city's belt recently, especially via a moratorium on employees attending conferences and workshops. Commissioners said that there was much they'd like to do, but

Novi Planning Commissioners discussed how much money to request from the Novi City Council for the coming fiscal year. In the end, they decided to axe two programs — including plans for a community survey — saving some \$20,000, and leaving a final budget figure of \$123,000.

financial concerns had to take precedence.

A community survey, which commissioners have considered for some time, was one of the two programs to fall.

Commissioners have considered the survey — which carried an estimated price tag of \$13,020 — to learn what city residents think about the

course of Novi's development. Some on the body have opposed the idea, saying that there are other avenues — meetings, elections, and so on — to gain residents' input. Others who supported the idea cited a desire to get more precise direction from a wider range of Novi citizens.

For 1993, at least, the survey will not go forward.

Commission Vice Chairperson John Balagna said that the body's budgeting subcommittee recommended a fiscal year 1993 budget of \$123,400. That amount is down from an earlier estimate of \$142,420 — the cut achieved by eliminating two separate projects: the survey and plans to amend city maps to reflect zoning changes.

All environmental studies will be held off in 1993 as well, the commission decided.

Commissioner Laura Lorenzo said she still supported conducting the survey this year.

Director of Planning James Wahl reflected the view of some other commissioners when he said that a better strategy would be to wait.

"From a timing standpoint," he said, "it would be better to do the survey two or three years from now,

coinciding with (the beginning of the next) master plan revision, versus doing it now, just as it's coming out."

The benefits of that idea, some commissioners feel, would be twofold. First, it would allow residents to digest the information in the current master plan and give informed reactions if surveyed in a year or so. Secondly, the information in the survey would be more useful if garnered just as the city begins considering its next master plan update.

Commissioners who support the idea have countered by saying they'll be guided by learning what residents want in planning and from their city planners, both in the long and short term.

Commissioner Robert Mitzel said that community feedback was important, but questioned if the survey as proposed was the best method.

Mitzel suggested other, less costly avenues be explored.

In the end, commissioners voted 6-1 for the revised budget plan without the survey.

Lorenzo was the sole dissenter, saying she favored conducting the survey this year. Chairperson Kathleen McLallen said she opposed conducting it this year, as did Mitzel. Balagna and Commissioners Lodia Richards and Robert Taub opposed the idea altogether, saying they felt it was an unnecessary expense. Also voting for the new budget was Commissioner Glen Bonaventura.

The council is beginning to budget for the coming year now. Its final word on the commission's budget should come within the next few months.

State Republicans pushing crime bills

By TIM RICHARD
Staff Writer

This year Republican state senators are more hopeful their package of anti-crime legislation will also be passed by the House of Representatives.

The bills generally give police and prosecutors more powers and stiffen some sentences.

"Look at the laundry list that's comin' down here!" scoffed Democrat Virgil Smith of Detroit.

"Boy, I can't wait to run for prosecutor again," said Smith, who last year came within a whisker of toppling Wayne County Prosecutor John O'Hair in the Democratic primary.

Biggest bones of contention: allowing no-knock search warrants, tougher penalties for marijuana dealing, and court admission of tainted evidence.

Republicans and conservative Democrats have enough votes to pass everything they debated.

Meanwhile, the House was slowly working on similar bills that had been blocked in the past by Judiciary chair Perry Bullard, D-Ann Arbor. Gov. John Engler endorses the package.

The "no-knock" bill got the most prolonged debate before being passed 22 to 12. It would allow police to obtain a special warrant to enter a building unannounced.

Voting yes were Republicans Robert Geake of Northville and Fred Dillingham of Fowlerville.

Voting no were Democrats Jack Faxon of Farmington Hills and Lana Pollack of Ann Arbor.

Absent was David Honigman, R-West Bloomfield.

"How many of you have been raided or done a raid?" asked Sen. Michael Bouchard, R-Birmingham, a former police officer. Only he and Jon Cisky, R-Saginaw, a former sheriff's deputy, raised their hands.

"In concept I oppose it (no knock)," Bouchard admitted, but he added the bill had been narrowly written.

"In reality they say 'police' and kick the door. You're yelling 'police' at the top of your lungs as you run through the house and open doors.

"You have to articulate the facts in a warrant, and you have to give (the judge) reasons beyond that of the safety of officers."

Sponsor Jack Welborn, R-Kalamazoo, said requiring police to announce themselves gives criminals an opportunity to draw a gun or flush drugs down a toilet.

But Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills whose district includes Novi, argued that many raids are of hotel and motel rooms where police go to a wrong room number.

Wayne County Sheriff Robert Ficano expressed concern that use of no-knock would endanger the lives of narcotics officers because "The enemy is formidable. We see more and more crack houses fortified by an arsenal of weapons. Why give the drug dealer the excuse to shoot, claiming he didn't know who was entering the premises?"

Bouchard also sponsored the bill to stiffen marijuana penalties, SB 234, which passed 30 to 5. It was supported Geake and Dillingham, opposed by Faxon and Pollack.

"It's a lot more dangerous now," Bouchard said. "In the '60s the average THC content was one-half to 1 percent. Now the average is 6 to 7 percent, and even up to 12 or 16 percent.

"There has been a dramatic increase in the price — from \$1,000 to

\$3,000 a pound. That's an economic incentive to dealers.

"The Michigan State Police lab processes more marijuana than cocaine.

"Currently there's no difference between the penalty for a four-pound bag and a two-ton truck."

Current law provides for up to four years in prison and a maximum fine of \$2,000 for manufacture, delivery or possession of pot.

Under the Senate bill, penalties would be:

- For 45 kg or 100 marijuana plants or more — up to 20 years and \$5 million in fines.

- For 4.5 to 45 kg or 50 to 100 plants — up to 10 years and \$250,000.

- For less than 4.5 kg and fewer than 50 plants — up to five years and a fine of \$500 to \$20,000.

"It's obvious that increasing penalties does not deter consumption of marijuana," objected Faxon.

"The cost is disproportionate to the gain in public safety," added Lana Pollack, D-Ann Arbor. "You'd have to build a new prison at a \$30 million capital cost for an 800-bed prison and \$12 million in operating costs."

Bouchard won 22 to 12 approval of his SB 188 to modify the rule excluding tainted evidence in a trial.

"It was known as the 'fruit of the poisonous tree' doctrine," he said. "Evidence could be excluded if there was a technical flaw in the warrant. This creates the 'good faith' exception."

Under it, the evidence would be admissible if the officer believed the warrant to be valid; or had obtained evidence in a search leading to an arrest under a law later declared unconstitutional.

Voting yes were Geake and Dillingham; voting no, Faxon and Pollack.

Faxon objected that the bill would result in "overzealous" police actions, "more litigation, more lawyers, more jamming up of courts."

Passed with surprising ease was a proposed constitutional amendment (SJR D) eliminating the automatic right of appeal for criminals who had pleaded guilty.

If the House gives it two-thirds approval, the proposal will be on the 1994 ballot for voters.

The proposal had stiff opposition when the Senate debated it last year. Last week Geake, Dillingham and Pollack voted yes; Faxon voted no.

Some 3,800 of the 12,000 cases — 32 percent — filed with the Court of Appeals come from prisoners who had pleaded guilty. The Court of Appeals upholds convictions and sentences in all but a small handful of cases.

Prisoners could still appeal "by leave" — that is, with the court's permission. Grants of permission probably are likely in cases where a judge had exceeded sentencing guidelines.

Prosecutors also complain about the high cost of assigning senior lawyers to write 35-page briefs opposing appeals that lack merit.

Martin Doctoroff, chief judge of the Court of Appeals, and Oakland Prosecutor Richard Thompson had strongly urged the Senate Judiciary Committee to approve the proposal.

Other bills passed Wednesday:

- SB 229 — allowing crime victims to sue drug dealers for civil damages.

- SB 231 — allowing wiretaps of prisoners' telephone calls where there is reason to believe drug deals are being made.

- SB 233 — making it a crime to induce or coerce a minor into the drug trade.

- SB 195 — setting up a fund for a state crime lab.

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MONDAY
March 8, 1993

Eleanor & Ray Heald/Wine

Young wines drink well but age gracefully

Sonoma County, California, has taken the French concept of wine appellations and designated 11 distinct wine growing regions within its borders. The smallest of these appellations (in the U.S. they are known as American Viticultural Areas, AVA) is Sonoma Mountain. Here, Patrick Campbell makes extraordinary estate-grown cabernet sauvignon in the tradition of a Bordeaux classified growth.

"I planted the three principal Bordeaux varietals — cabernet sauvignon, merlot and cabernet franc in 1968, and began making wine without formal training in 1981," Campbell recalls. "My lack of formal training in enology was an advantage."

He says this because wine is a natural product that should not be over-handled or manipulated. Campbell believes that winemakers educated at the University of California at Davis tend to strip wines of flavor and texture by performing too many unnecessary manipulative procedures on the wine.

"In the early years, whenever I needed advice, I would telephone a neighboring winery," said Campbell. "They were always willing to discuss options that afforded minimal handling of the wine."

Campbell divides the evolution of the Laurel Glen style into three periods. He refers to the wines of 1981-84 as his amateur winemaking days. From 1985-87 he admits that he really began to get a handle on making Bordeaux-style wine. From 1988 to present, his wines made a quantum leap in quality because he, like most of the great chateaux of Bordeaux, began to produce a second label called Counterpoint.

The importance of the second label cannot be overstated. It allows Campbell to make Laurel Glen Cabernet Sauvignon the best wine he can in any given vintage. The key is that all of the wine is treated exactly the same, but barrels lending themselves to earlier enjoyment are put into Counterpoint while the very best are reserved for the Laurel Glen.

"Since lot selection is not made until close to the bottling," Campbell explains, "Counterpoint is necessarily vinted in the same manner as the Laurel Glen — no corners are cut, the same new barrels are used."

Unfortunately, starting with 1988, Laurel Glen was scarcer because of increasingly stringent lot selection. The 1988 vintage yielded only 20 percent of the 1986 vintage and only 33 percent of the 1987 vintage.

"I feel that it is absolutely imperative to make the best statement with the Laurel Glen," Campbell emphasizes, "even if it means that in some years we may make little or none at all."

This also means that the consumer can buy the Counterpoint (\$17) for about half the price of the Laurel Glen (\$30). Counterpoint is a more forward wine, rich and moderately tannic, full of the casis and berry flavors typical of the fruit grown in Campbell's Sonoma Mountain vineyards.

An appellation concept emphasizes the importance of vineyard site and its accompanying soil and climate. It is the unique combination of his Sonoma Mountain site and Campbell's philosophy of gentle handling that defines the particular taste and aroma of Laurel Glen.

The Sonoma Mountains form the western boundary of Sonoma Valley. (Sonoma Valley is an AVA and Sonoma Mountain is an AVA within Sonoma Valley. It is no more confusing

Continued on 2

WINE SELECTION OF THE WEEK

1990 Terra Rossa (\$10) is bottled by Laurel Glen from wine not grown on the estate, but blended and cellared by Patrick Campbell. It represents one of the most drinkable and delicious cabernets with character in this price range.



Traditional cooks use their hands and a double-chamber steaming vessel to prepare tender couscous.

Getting couscous right

Cook this new-age pasta the old world way

By CHARLES BRITTON
Copley News Service

Recipes undergo a curious change when they travel from one culture to another. Couscous provides a case in point.

From its North African home, this form of pasta that looks like a grain has made inroads in the American consciousness, to the point that you might find it on a party buffet or commercial salad bar, served cold, moistened with salad dressing and studded with crunchy vegetables. In its homeland, couscous would never be given such a treatment.

Rather, it would be served hot as the primary starch of the meal, like pasta in Italy.

Another strange thing about couscous: The package instructions for making it are all wrong. Well, maybe not wrong but certainly a shortcut designed for mass consumption. These directions call for a quick soaking in hot water, and the result, while perhaps acceptable, is a sodden mass, a far cry from tender, light, delicate texture of couscous made according to the true method.

The difference is rather like that between instant rice on the one hand and properly cooked rice on the other. The texture of a fine couscous is particularly seductive, reminiscent of the crumb of a good corn bread, but lighter and more separate.

Like many traditional recipes, true couscous does require some time. It's a process of moistening, steaming and working the grains with your hands. That's why we propose it as a weekend project.

The key to the traditional method is the handling of the grain.

It is repeatedly rubbed through the hands with a gentle pressure. The effect is to separate the grains and to aerate the texture. Primary rehydration is by steaming rather than soaking, this gives the couscous a dry yet tender feel, the North African equivalent of *al dente*.

The couscous grain is in fact made of a paste of semolina flour and water, much the same as for pasta. But in this case, the paste has been worked into small particles.

In traditional households, this is still done by hand, the kind you see in the store is machine made. You will find it on the shelves of most supermarkets these days, usually imported from France, where the dish is widely popular, a culinary relic of that country's imperial past in North Africa. There is also a whole wheat version, but this is less broadly distributed.

Most couscous seems to be medium grain (moyen in French), which somewhat resembles cornmeal. You might also come across a larger form of it, with spherical grains about the size of a BB shot.

All couscous we have seen has undergone a steaming stage that precooks the grains. This makes it possible to use the shortcut method of rehydrating the grains familiar to most American cooks.

In North Africa, couscous is served with a savory stew and a bowl of hot sauce, the whole assembly also is given the name of "couscous." We offer some recipes for the stew, too, including a classic that calls for seven vegetables (more or less, depending on how you count them). Couscous goes particularly well with

highly seasoned gravies, as, for example, in goulash. As a Mediterranean foodstuff, it goes quite well with many Italian and Spanish dishes, and some New World preparations are candidates too.

Try it sometime with your favorite chili recipe. It's great that way.

Preparing couscous grain is simple enough, but the steps are unusual. We begin with some preliminary considerations. (For those who wish to use it, the short-cut method is included at the end.)
● Equipment: Besides everyday items, the cook will need some means of steaming the couscous. Traditionally, this is accomplished in a double-chamber cooking pot called a couscoussier. The stew simmers in the lower half. The upper half has a perforated base to allow the steam to rise through the couscous.

The grain can be cooked just as well over simmering water as in any kind of similar steaming apparatus. Another choice would be a wok with a steamer insert. You will need cheesecloth to spread over the holes to keep the couscous from dropping through.

● Timing: It takes two or more hours to prepare couscous in the classic manner, but the cook is actively involved only now and then. About the same time is required for making the accompanying stew.

The following method for preparing the couscous is adapted from Paula Wolfert's "Couscous and Other Good Food From Morocco" (Harper), still the best treatment of the subject. The recipe does not depend on the amount of couscous you prepare. One cup of the grain (about 6 ounces) yields around 2 cups of finished couscous.

● Moistening and drying: Measure the

couscous in a large bowl. Add 3 parts cold water for each part of couscous. For example, 6 cups water to 2 cups of the grain. Immediately stir and drain.

Spread the couscous in a large flat pan. Allow to stand 10 minutes, then rake through the grain with your fingers to lighten it and break up any clumps. Pick up small handfuls of grain and rub it gently between your hands, allowing the grains to fall back in the pan.

● First steaming: Set up your steaming apparatus. If using a wok, for example, place water in the wok and bring to a boil. Insert the steaming rack, making sure the water does not touch it. Arrange a layer of cheesecloth over the holes.

Using the same rubbing action as in the previous step, drop about a third of the couscous onto the cloth, allowing it to form a soft mound.

Steam for 5 minutes, uncovered, over brisk heat. Then add the remaining couscous in the same manner. Over moderate heat, steam the couscous, uncovered, for 20 minutes. Be careful not to allow the steamer to boil dry.

● Second drying: Dump the couscous back in its pan, spreading it out with a large spoon. Sprinkle a few tablespoons of cold water over the grains. When the grain is cool enough to handle, rake through it with your fingers and then rub it to loosen the texture as in the first step. This time, though, oil your hands.

If the couscous seems excessively dry, sprinkle on a few tablespoons more water and rake it again.

● Holding for later service: You can prepare couscous ahead to this point. Cover

Continued on 2

Chef Mary Brady

Education proves to be a two-way street



Fourteen years ago on March 4, 1979, the Southfield location of Diamond Jim Brady's was opened.

I have been working with Brady's for 15 years now. At that tender age I never imagined

that I'd be at any job for this long. It's funny how things turn out . . . Back in those days, my expertise was

more of a managerial sort. Although cooking was a hobby and had paid my way through school, I didn't want to make my living at it. So instead, I concentrated on learning P and L statements, inventories, pricing, menus, hiring, training and the day-to-day task of directing the staff.

The latter was much more difficult then, as being a friend with everyone was much more important than being a boss. I was younger than many of the people working for me, and honestly, not as "restaurant-wise."

Thankfully, there were enough of them who became teachers and friends. They were kind enough to pass on their years of experience and smart enough to at least

listen to what I had to say. Hopefully, they learned something from me, too.

Then came the opportunity for me to teach a management class at Schoolcraft. The first was the toughest. The students were constantly testing my knowledge. It forced me to be on my toes at all times. I learned what it means to be humble.

The second term at SCC was when my love affair with food and sophisticated cooking began. For the next two years, I spent much of my time experimenting, competing and building towards certification. The support of the culinary staff helped me to attain a very wanted goal — certified executive chef, the only female in Michigan and one of 16 women in the Un-

ited States.

Although I'm proud of my accomplishment, I'm also sad that more women do not just "go for it." I moved from teaching management to directing the American Harvest and finally to developing a breakfast class that was strictly cooking and being creative with food.

During this time I was fortunate enough to compete in major world contests in Singapore and Luxembourg and to attend a classical cooking class in Ireland. The opportunities to expand my wisdom were limitless.

Getting older has meant getting better. The little things don't bother me. Patience

has become a virtue and I truly believe in doing unto others as I'd have them do unto me. Respect of others means much more than being liked. Respect, appreciation and esteem are mottos.

And, reflecting back over the years, I realize how many wonderful things have happened to me. Through a combination of work, excellent teachers and friends, public support, love, great students, blood, sweat and tears, and great employees, I've been able to attain goals that I never thought possible.

And maybe, just maybe, the luck of the Irish had something to do with it, too.

The Refrigerator Door

CHEF'S SEMINAR: On March 8, Schoolcraft College's Fifth Annual Chef's Seminar will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Waterman Campus Center. Eight different cooking workshops will be offered, featuring Detroit's best chefs. The \$150 fee includes lunch. To register call Continuing Education Services at 462-4448.

KITCHEN GLAMOR CLASSES: Novi's Kitchen Glamor store hosts a series of drop-in classes Tuesdays at 1 and 7 p.m. during the next several weeks. The fee for most of the classes is \$3. With all of the classes, recipes are provided free, and there will be small portion tasting. Everyone is welcome.

Kitchen Glamor is located in the Novi Town Center. Call 380-8600 for more information.

STAR CLIPPER RIDES RAINBOWS: With any given reservation on the Michigan Star Clipper dinner train during the months of January, February or March, the reserve's name will be put on an honor roll list. This will automatically enable an oncology patient from Children's Hospital to come to the railroad in July for the Christmas in July celebration with Santa Claus. July train rides will be funded by the Coe Railroad, organized by the Rainbow Connection.

OLGA'S: Olga's Kitchen has decided to sell its popular salad dressing in 12.6-ounce bottles. For each bottle sold for \$3.29 in any of its restaurants, Olga's Kitchen will donate 25 cents to a local food bank in the Detroit metro area.

OLIVE OIL HOTLINE: If you've ever wondered about the "heart-healthy" benefits of olive oil, call the International Olive Oil Council hot line. The hot line is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, Eastern time, call 1-800-232-6548.

AMERICAN HARVEST OPEN: Schoolcraft College's American Harvest Restaurant is open for weekday lunches. The on-campus restaurant, which features gourmet specialties prepared by Schoolcraft's Master Chefs and Culinary Arts students, is open to the public from 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Friday's meal is a buffet. Cost is \$8.25 per person. For more information, call 462-4488.

KNOW THE FOOD PYRAMID: Want to know what you should eat to stay healthy? "The Food Guide Pyramid, beyond the Basic Four," a new brochure, helps answer this question. The brochure condenses the information from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) booklet "The Food Guide Pyramid" and features the new food guide graphic on the elements of a healthy diet.

The brochure was developed by the Food Marketing Institute in cooperation with the USDA. For a copy, send a check or money order for \$1 payable to the Superintendent of Documents, to Consumer Information Center, Department 159-Y, Pueblo, Colo. 81009.

RECIPES WANTED: A new feature is appearing in the Creative Dining section of this paper. Known as HomeTown Cooking, it will feature recipes contributed by readers. With that in mind, we'd like to take this time to ask that anyone with a recipe that they'd like to share with all their neighbors in the Northville/Novi area please send it, along with your name, address, and phone number, to HomeTown Cooking, 104 W. Main St., Northville, MI 48167. Any recipe will do. Perhaps you have a dinner-time favorite, or a recipe for bread that's been passed down through your family for generations, or maybe just a good, fast work-night cost-cutter. Send it in, and we'll feature it on these pages.

FRETZEL SNACKS: Borden has introduced Snacking Turtles Pretzel Snacks. Bite-sized pretzels that provide a low fat alternative to regular chips. The 10-ounce family size bag, suggested retail \$1.29, is available in supermarkets.

NEW SALSA: Enjoy the just-made fresh taste of Sonora Valley salsas, cheese sauces and dips, found in your grocer's refrigerated case. Sonora Valley Authentic Recipe Salsas mix the garden-fresh crunch of zesty peppers and savory onions with the richness of red ripe tomatoes to create a fresh taste and just the right amount of spice. New Sonora Valley Guacamole is made with 100 percent California black-skinned Hass, the finest avocado available. The Sonora Valley family of Mexican foods also includes nacho Cheese Sauce, Chili con Queso Dip, Bean and Cheese Dip, Fajita Mix and western-style Pico de Gallo-type salsas. Look for them at A&P, Farmer Jack's and Kroger.

AUNT JEMMA BISCUITS: Detroiters are among the first in the nation to taste the new fresh baked, Ready-To-Eat Aunt Jemima Premium Biscuits. Available in both Premium Buttertermilk and Cinnamon Raisin, the biscuits contain real buttertermilk. The biscuits need only be reheated in an oven or microwave. They are sold in packages of six with a suggested retail price of \$1.29.

FRETZEL SNACKS: Borden has introduced Snacking Turtles Pretzel Snacks. Bite-sized pretzels that provide a low fat alternative to regular chips. The 10-ounce family size bag, suggested retail \$1.29, is available in supermarkets.

SWISS CHOCOLATE: If you're looking for the perfect hostess gift, consider Kamby's prize-winning specialty chocolates from the Emmental region of the Swiss Alps. Available at Jacobson's, Merchant of Vino and Neiman-Marcus. There are 11 different kinds, that combine, old-world Swiss tradition, culinary artistry and craftsmanship with 20th century production.

"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.

Local chefs featured in seminar

Cooking is a lot like sewing — it's easier when someone shows you how to do it. Do you remember how frustrated you were the first time you whipped egg whites for a cake. These questions raced through your mind as you energetically beat the whites with a brand-new whisk in a stainless steel bowl. "How long are you supposed to whip them? What are they supposed to look like? What does it mean when a recipe says 'whip until light?'"

"Cooking is visual," said Chef Marcus Haight of the Lark Restaurant in West Bloomfield. "When people see how something is supposed to be done once, they can do it themselves. When I show people how to whip egg whites, I pass the bowl around so they'll know how something should look."

Haight found his way through the snow and sleet Sunday, Feb. 21, to teach a class in the "Michigan Chef Series — Your Recipe For Success," at the Kitchen Glamor store in West Bloomfield.

He is also one of eight popular area chefs who are participating in the "5th Annual Chef's Seminar for Sophisticated Cooks," 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. today, March 8, at Schoolcraft

College, 16600 Haggerty Road in Livonia. (See Cooking Seminars chart inside for details).

Also participating are Chef Mary Brady of Diamond Jim Brady's, Novi; Chef Miles Chetka of the Golden Mushroom, Southfield; Brian Polyn, The Pike Street Restaurant, Pontiac; and Ed Janos, presently a chef without a kitchen, but late of Too Cheez in Novi. He plans to open his own restaurant "Avenue Diner" in the former Juke Box restaurant in Royal Oak in June.

"It's fun to share your knowledge. You learn a lot by teaching," said Janos, who teaches in the Kitchen Glamor series. "If you teach, you're also teaching yourself."

Other chefs in the Kitchen Glamor series include Peter Loren of Opus 1, Detroit, 12:30 p.m. Sunday, March 21; Kathy Ruls, Rowe Inn, Ellsworth, 12:30 p.m. Sunday, April 18; Brian Polyn, Pike Street, Pontiac, 12:30 p.m. Sunday, April 25, and Chef Miles Chetka, 6:30 p.m. Monday, May 3.

Chefs who teach do it because they enjoy it. Teaching isn't easy, it's a lot of hard work. Haight said he spends three hours of prep time for every recipe. The seminar at Schoolcraft

College includes lunch.

Many area chefs teach classes at the Les Auteurs School of Cooking in Royal Oak. Participants receive recipes, tastings of each dish prepared, and a glass of wine.

Upcoming classes on Saturdays, 10 a.m. to noon will feature — Peter Ashcroft, Chuck Muer Corporation, March 6; Dan Rowland, Oakland Community College, Culinary Arts Program, Farmington Hills, March 13; Tim Okra, Moreis, Birmingham, March 20; and James Slawara of Oakland Community College, April 3.

Tuesday 6-8 p.m. classes will feature — Lorraine Platman, Sweet Lorraine's, Southfield, March 9; and Michael McFarlen, Beverly Hills Grill, Beverly Hills, March 23.

Thursday 6-8 p.m. classes will feature — Jeffrey Drew, Cocina Del Sol, Southfield, March 11; and Jeffrey Gabriel, Schoolcraft College, Livonia, March 18, March 25 and April 15.

SILVER HAKE WITH POTATO-VEGETABLE CRUST

Hake (or any firm fleshed fish), about 2 pounds
Shrimp Mousse (see below)

1 medium potato
1 medium zucchini
1 carrot
Oil or butter for browning fish

Spread Shrimp Mousse over fillets. Peel, julienne and blanch vegetables. Press julienne vegetables into mousse. Heat oil or butter in skillet. Add fish, vegetable side down. Brown and finish in 350 degree oven. (Figure 10 minutes cooking time for every inch of fish thickness. About 8 to 10 minutes).
Serve with pea pods and a butter or vegetable sauce. Serves 6-8.

SHRIMP MOUSSE

1 pound shrimp, raw
2 egg whites
1 cup heavy cream
diced dill, to taste

Puree shrimp in food processor, add whites and incorporate well. Slowly add cream until mixture is thick and creamy. Add dill to taste.

Recipes compliments of Marcus Haight, The Lark, Bloomfield Hills; Mary Brady, Diamond Jim Brady's Bar & Grill, Novi.

Couscous need not be soggy stuffer

Continued from 1

with a damp cloth; it can remain several hours.

Final steaming: Replace the cheesecloth on the steamer and, using the rubbing action, return the couscous. Steam 20 minutes, uncovered. The couscous is now ready to serve.

Traditionally, it is mounded on a platter and the elements of the stew are arranged on or around it. If you like, you can sprinkle the couscous lightly with cinnamon.

A good reason for the popularity of the shortcut method of preparing couscous is that it is very fast. You can have a pot of couscous ready in less time than it takes to make the dishes that go with it. In general, the procedure is this:

Couscous (Shortcut Method): For each cup of couscous, bring 1 1/2 cups of water or stock to a boil. If you like, add 2 or 3 tablespoons of butter or

olive oil. Add couscous, stir quickly and immediately turn off heat. Set the pot aside, covered, for five minutes. Fluff with a fork to break up lumps.

The couscous grain can be used as a starch in any menu, particularly as an accompaniment to a stew with a savory gravy. In North Africa, any number of preparations have been evolved to accompany the grain.

Many of the recipes produce enough food for a small crowd; the following, adapted from Paula Wolfert, is sized for a smaller household.

COUSCOUS WITH CHICKEN

1 pound couscous made according to instructions for the grain
1 chicken, cut up, with or without giblets as you choose
salt, pepper to taste
1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
3 pinches saffron powder (be more generous if using saffron threads)

1 onion sliced
several sprigs parsley
3/4 cup chicken broth
1/2 pound black raisins
1 pound red onions
1/4 cup unsalted butter
1 teaspoon cinnamon
2 tablespoons sugar
2 tablespoons honey
1/4 pound blanched almonds, toasted or sauteed until brown

Stir in cinnamon and sugar. Cook another 15 minutes, covered, then add about 3/4 cup of chicken cooking liquid. Cook uncovered, until thick and syrupy.
Drain raisins and add to onions. Reserve.

Preheat oven to 450 F. Remove chicken from its cooking liquid and allow to drain. Brush chicken with honey and set in the oven for a few minutes to glaze.

Arrange couscous on platter; pour onion-raisin sauce over chicken. Sprinkle with almonds.

Serve broth separately for each guest; to spoon over couscous as desired.

Yields 4 to 5 servings.

One of the most famous Moroccan preparations is this, adapted from Robert Carrier's Taste of Morocco (Potter).

Laurel Glen aging well

Continued from 1

than Hamtramck being a city within Detroit.) The well-drained, rocky clay-loam soils on the eastern slopes provide a diverse and complex range of growing conditions even within single vineyards.

Laurel Glen's vineyards face east, as do most of the great vineyards of the world. We cannot think of a single great vineyard that has a western exposure. The vineyards face the rising sun and warm up early, yet face away from the intense afternoon sun. This gives the grapes a relatively constant daily temperature and a moderate climate with a slightly longer growing season promoting even ripening and full grape maturity.

Still, uniqueness does not necessarily equate to quality and if this uniqueness does not yield excellent wine, then there is no story.

The Laurel Glen story destroys the myth that a great cabernet sauvignon must be a hard, tannic, block-buster wine in its youth to be ageable. Laurel Glen cabernets taste good when young. They have the aroma of black currants, blackberries and cherries with smooth, rounded tannins and a persistent finish. The same balance of fruit, oak and tannins that make the wine attractive when young, also give it the requisite structure to age gracefully.

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- NEW: Livonia, Wonderland Mall.....261-3220
- NEW: Novi, Twelve Oaks Mall (lower level, Lord & Taylor wing).....380-9640
- NEW: Sterling Heights, Lakeside Mall (lower level, west court near Sears).....566-7700

SNOWTIME IS SLOW TIME DRIVE SAFELY

the NOVI NEWS Sports

Tankers take second place at Brighton

By SCOTT DANIEL
Sports Editor

The Wildcat swim team closed its regular season on a high note Feb. 27 by finishing second at the annual Brighton Invitational.

With 249 points, Novi finished behind only Farmington Brother Rice's 376. A total of nine schools participated in the two-day meet.

Mike Speersneider and Mike Lafferty qualified for state finals at Brighton. Speersneider will swim in the 200-yard IM while Lafferty will go for a win in the 500-yard freestyle. "Brother Rice provided good competition and helped Speersneider and Lafferty push themselves," said Novi coach Mark Mason.

The coach said he was happy with his team's finish in Brighton. But Mason added, he was hoping a few more swimmers would qualify for state competition.

"We were more concerned about trying to qualify people than winning it," he said.

Members of the 400-yard freestyle relay team qualified last week. Mike Speersneider, Lafferty, Dennis Suchy and Erich Kelly will compete on that squad.

Novi had several excellent performances at Brighton. Members of the 400-yard freestyle relay team qualified last week. Mike Speersneider, Lafferty, Dennis Suchy and Erich Kelly will compete on that squad.

Novi closed the meet by taking second in the 400-yard freestyle relay. The team of Mike Speersneider, Lafferty, Suchy and Kelly had a time of 3:25.02.

The Wildcats finished with a 4-6 regular season dual meet record. Overall, it's been a decent year.

Mason said, "We've been hurt by low numbers of swimmers on the team."



Mike Speersneider made the state cut in the 200 IM.

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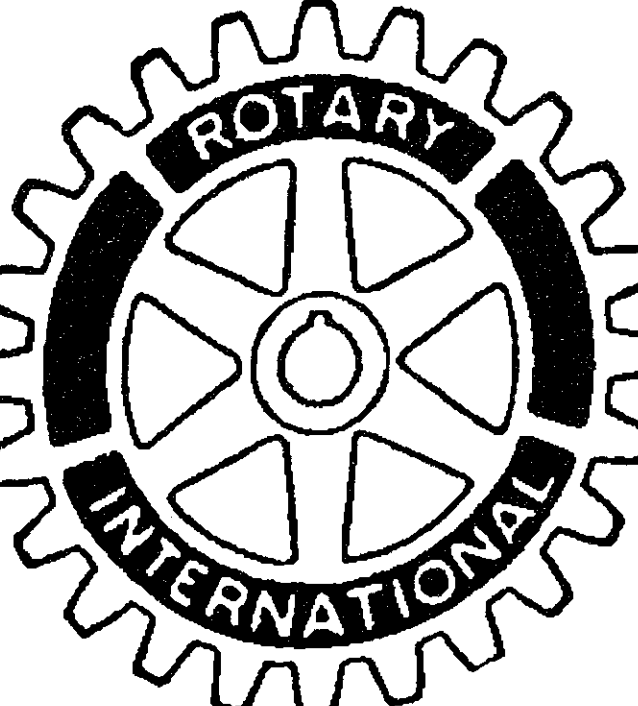
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Rotary International, a group of more than 25,000 international service clubs with over 1,000,000 men and women members, celebrated the 75th anniversary of the Rotary Foundation in 1992.

The Rotary Foundation supports many charitable causes around the world, including the granting of more educational scholarships than the Rhodes and Fullbright scholarships combined.

Local Rotary Clubs are independent in the programs they choose to support. For more information contact your hometown Rotary Club.

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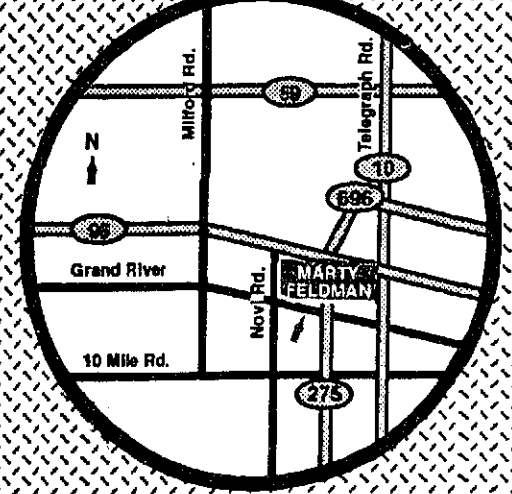
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