



Pompon salute: The Mid-American Pom Pon All-Stars marched in Wednesday's Inaugural Day Parade. The 120-member squad includes students from Livonia, Farmington, Plymouth, Canton, Garden City and West Bloomfield.



Celebrating Leon and Heidi Cohan (right) of Bloomfield Hills stopped to chat and be photographed with Martha Olmstead of Washington, D.C. at the Michigan Inaugural Ball.

Dems have ball at the inaugural

By ZINA KRAMER
SPECIAL WRITER
WASHINGTON — They're



Having a ball: Tamara Henritzy of Rochester Hills was among the hundreds of Michigan residents who attended the Michigan Inaugural Ball last Wednesday in Washington, D.C.

calling it the best of the inaugural balls. But of course, they're prejudiced. The Michigan Inaugural Committee hosted 2,600 state residents Wednesday night at a buffet dinner dance at the National Museum of American History. On each of three floors ball-goers were treated to buffets and to the music of four different bands and combos. Guests dined on foods ranging from gourmet vegetable chips to chicken and wild rice. You had to make it to the third floor to partake of the Sanders hot fudge sundae. To record the evening's activities, guests were given single-use cameras, compliments of Perry Drug Stores. Snapshots were popping all evening as many guests used the opportunity to have their photo taken with former Governor Jim and Janet Blanchard, Wayne County Executive Ed and Lucille McNamara and Congressman John and Debbie Dingell, as well as other well-known politicians.



Partygoers: Sidney and Diane Lutz of Farmington Hills were spotted among the crowd at the Michigan Inaugural Ball in the National Museum of American History.



Excited: Oakland County Commissioner Larry Pernick and his wife, Anne, of Southfield, attended the inaugural festivities at the National Museum of American History.

Among those at the black tie event were Richard Whitmer, CEO of Blue Cross/Blue Shield; Eric Clay and Bill Coleman, former Yale Law School classmates of President Bill Clinton; Lowell and Julie Potiker; Ted and Maria Gatzaros; Jim and Denise (Hitch)

Lites; Joe and Susan O'Connor; Steve and Tula Economy; and Renee and Mort Cain. Those who had attended the major balls in previous years said this was a much improved version. The inaugural committee consisted of the Michigan Clinton

POLICE/FIRE CALLS

Listed below are some of the Farmington area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week.

- ARMED ROBBERY**
The Comfort Inn on 12 Mile in Farmington Hills was held up Jan. 19 at about 11 p.m., according to police reports. The robber, described as a black man, 6-feet-6, 145 pounds, wore a mask, blue jeans and a hooded black sweat shirt. He took \$527 in cash and brandished a small, black pistol. No injuries were reported.
- AUTO THEFT**
A 1992 white Chevrolet Baretta was taken from the Burger King restaurant on 12 Mile Jan. 19. The car, valued at \$15,000, belonged to the restaurant.
- FRAUD**
The owner of the Pony Express

Saloon on Eight Mile in Farmington Hills cashed a check for

\$381.51 on Jan. 19 from a 30-year-old regular customer. The check turned out to be forged.

In an unrelenting incident, a man living at an apartment on Green Hill told police his brother cashed a social security check of \$2,765 for him, but returned with only \$1,868, \$900 short.

INDECENT EXPOSURE
A warrant is being sought for a 24-year-old Farmington Hills man in connection with an indecent exposure incident Jan. 20 at Universal Sight & Sound in Farmington. An employee told Farmington public safety officers the man approached the counter to ask a question, and she saw his pants were unzipped and he was exposed.

He later walked around the counter to ask more questions while still exposing himself. The subject picked up a video he had rented and then left the store. The employee recognized the man as a regular customer. A check of his membership number turned up a Farmington Hills address.

The suspect is on probation for a similar incident in September in Farmington. He also has two previous convictions on indecent exposure in Farmington Hills.

BREAKING AND ENTERING
A VCR worth \$300, an answering machine worth \$100 and jewelry were stolen from a residence on West Brandon in Farmington Hills after someone pried open the rear window on Jan. 18.

A bathroom window was pried open at a residence on North Stockton in Farmington Hills Jan. 19 and a 27-inch Mitsubishi TV worth \$1,000, a stereo equalizer worth \$100, a dual cassette deck worth \$100, a tuner and amplifier and \$160 in cash were stolen.

The front door to an apartment on Gateway in Farmington Hills was pried and \$1,480 in goods was stolen. A 19 inch Sony TV, a Fisher VCR and an answering machine were among items stolen.

THEFTS
A gold lady's Rolex ring valued at \$300 was stolen from an apartment at Village Green Apartments on Village Green. It turned up missing after a furniture delivery.

A Jacobsen snow blower worth \$400, a hydraulic floor jack worth \$100, car ramps worth \$100 and a men's jacket worth \$100 having the fraternity name Delta Sigma Phi written on the back were stolen from a garage at a residence on Loyal in Farmington Hills between Jan. 15-17.

An exercise bike valued at \$250 was stolen from the clubhouse at the Spring Lane Apartments on Spring Lane in Farmington Hills between Jan. 17-18.

An AM/FM radio valued at \$300 was stolen from a blue 1992 Chevy Blazer parked at East Middle School on Middlebelt in Farmington Hills on Jan. 21.

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Midwest

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Woman sentenced for false insurance claim

A Detroit woman was sentenced to probation for her part in a bid to collect a \$1,260 settlement check for a false slip and fall claim from an insurance company. Dionna Leslie Weathers, 25, pleaded guilty to collecting under false pretenses and was sentenced in 47th District Court on the misdemeanor charge. She had faced a felony charge of false pretenses which carries a maximum prison sentence of 10 years and/or a \$5,000 fine.

In addition to a year of probation, Weathers will have to pay \$200 in fines and five five days of work release.

Weathers was charged after an investigation by U.S. Postal Inspectors, the Farmington Hills and the National Insurance Crime Bureau in Detroit. Investigators found that the company she claimed to work for did not exist so she could not claim lost wages from the Aug. 4 slip and fall incident in Taylor.

Hills CPA pleads guilty to attempt to bribe agent

Bruce Berndt, a certified public accountant and Farmington Hills resident, pleaded guilty to attempted bribery in U.S. District Court and faces up to 15 years in prison and/or a \$250,000 fine. "The information presented to the court at the time of the plea showed that Mr. Berndt offered the bribe for the purpose of having the IRS revenue agent prepare a false report in connection with an audit she was involved in,"

said assistant U.S. attorney Alan Gershal. Judge Patrick J. Duggan accepted the plea on Jan. 11.

The date of sentence has not been set and Berndt has been released on a personal bond, said U.S. attorney Stephen J. Markman.

The inspection division of the Internal Revenue Service investigated the case.