

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

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Bargain hunters find mall

By SUSAN DEMAGGIO
STAFF WRITER

These days it's hard to believe shoppers could be excited about another retail center expansion, but customers of the now-joined Orchard Place Mall and Hunter's Square are.

Four months ago Bed, Bath and Beyond, Amazing Savings, Marshalls and the 1/2 Off Card Shop filled up display cases and plugged in their scanning machines, and their sales managers couldn't be more pleased by the results.

"Sales have been great, steadily great," said Fran Garrity of Bed, Bath and Beyond. "Our customers are local. We're drawing from Southfield, Livonia, West Bloomfield, Novi.

"We are discounters, but with a difference. Upscale merchandise. We're clean. Our store is neat, easy to shop."

June Clark, a relocation specialist with Century 21 in West Bloomfield, shopped Bed, Bath and Beyond for the first time on her lunch hour last week.

"I have been wanting to stop in since Christmas," she said as she walked to her car. "It's huge. They have a tremendous selection of name brands. They stock lots of merchandise. But it's not cheap. I mean, some of their cooking utensil prices are higher than I found in my favorite cooking catalogs. Yet other items are less."

"I just love browsing at Amazing Savings because you never know what you're going to find. They bring in new stuff everyday," said Teresa Jaaper of Livonia. "I'm buying three packages of full tinseel for 39 cents each. The tinseel is about \$3 a package at card shops. I'm also buying a set of four, crystal champagne glasses by Mikasa for \$13.99."

The cash or check only store offers deep savings on a hodge-podge of close-out (discontinued) merchandise purchased directly from the manufacturer, according to manager Kim Stewart.

Centers join to form shopping district

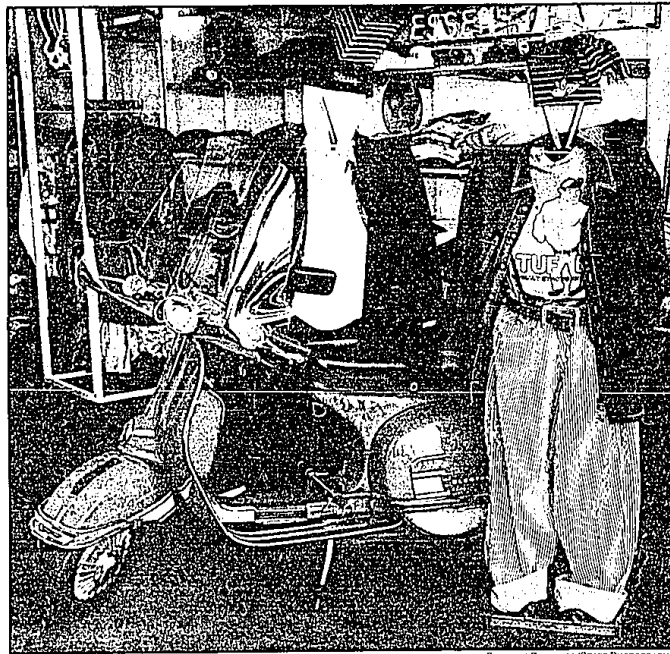
Recent renovations eliminated the parking lot barriers between Hunter's Square and Orchard Place Mall, creating a huge discount shopping district at the southwest corner of 14 Mile and Orchard Lake roads in Farmington Hills. While not a "mall" in the strictest sense, the shops are connected in an L-shape with a common parking area.

Shops include: Loehmann's, F & M, Winkelman's, The Men's Wearhouse, Bed, Bath & Beyond, The 1/2 Off Card Shop, Marshalls, The Gap, Famous Footwear, Amazing Savings, T. J. Maxx, J. R. & Co., Knapco's, Shoe-Town, Lady Madonna, Clothesline, Parade of Shoes, Emory Jewelers, Priscilla Tuxedo, Bo Ricks, Big & Tall Casual Male, Parfumania, Tag Art, Dress Barn, Metro Salon, NutriSystem and Marvin's Marvelous Mechanical Museum.

Restaurants within the center include Max & Erma's, Anita's Kitchen, The Honey Tree, Farmington Soundel Coney Island and Bimble's. Each center is managed by separate owners.

The three existing vacancies will be filled in March when Designer Shoes, Jenny Craig Weightloss Center and Ruffin's Tuxedo open.

Sloppy style



STEPHEN CANTRELL/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Upscale grunge: At It's the Ritz in downtown Birmingham, grunge clothing is hot. Owner Frank Caruso believes the style grew out of the skateboarder's attire - baggy and loose.

All dressed down Grunge Look rides new wave of popularity



It's a look. Not it's innane. Not it's an attitude! It's Grunge Dressing, also known as Hip Hop, Alternative, New Wave. Check it out on a young person near you.

By SUSAN DEMAGGIO
STAFF WRITER

Webster's defines grungy: a blend of grimy and dingy. Dirty, messy, disreputable, etc. Unpleasant in any way.

Janice Hayes of Jacobson's says the Grunge Look traces its roots to her hometown of Seattle where grunge band musicians play gigs in oversized flannel shirts and big jeans with hooded sweatshirts sticking out from beneath.

Frank Caruso of It's the Ritz in downtown Birmingham says the Grunge Look is simply an outgrowth of the skateboard-surf style, pieces of big, oversized sloppy clothing thrown on and worn out the door.

M.J. Burns, Hudson's fashion director, paraphrases a People magazine article that says grunge dressing is a product of the new generation, kids in their 20s who are angry with how the baby boomers have left the world.

"They are graduating with no job prospects," she said. "They are mad at the huge budget deficit

they're inheriting. They are furious at the way boomers have left the environment. They wear grunge clothing as a protest. Yes, it's a protest, an attitude, their personal expression. The same way I wore a peace sign in the 1960s."

But Burns has seen the Grunge Look on the runways of Paris as well.

"They're mixing plaids and florals in the same color tones. No rhyme or reason. Long underwear under a skirt that has a hole in it. A huge flannel shirt with one sleeve

■ Most kids like clothes from the Gap or Limited instead, more preppy. But the kids that like the Seattle rock bands will wear flannel shirts over ripped jeans, lots of layers."

Sarah Rauch
Farmington Harrison High School

rolled up, the other worn long, past the fingertips. Definitely not trim and tailored."

Sarah Rauch, a freshman at Harrison High in Farmington Hills, said at Harrison only certain

groups dress in Grunge. "Most kids like clothes from the Gap or Limited instead, more preppy," she explained. "But the kids that like the Seattle rock bands will wear flannel shirts over ripped jeans, lots of layers."

Plymouth Canton High School senior John Smith says the Grunge Look at his school belongs to the students who follow the Seattle bands and want to imitate their style.

"It's hot with the kids who like alternative music, the skateboarders type of kid," he said. "Personally, I'll pass on grunge clothing."

Amy Drehabach, a junior at Churchill High School in Livonia, called the Grunge Look "immature."

"But I believe everyone has the right to wear what they want," she said. "I hate the fact that kids lose their individuality by dressing as a group. Like the old saying goes though, you fly with your flock."

SHOPPING CENTERED



LINDA BACHRACK

The ritual of tea is steeped in ceremony

A steaming cup of tea, sweetened with a spoonful of honey and served in the prettiest of china teacups — a ritual that requires serenity and relaxation.

"My sister Ann has a passion for tea," says Peggy Donovan of Royal Oak. "She lives for her tea. It's her tranquilizer."

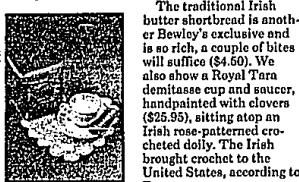
My mother-in-law is the same way. She puts the kettle on even before she takes off her coat and says hello. And I believe her devotion to the spontaneous ceremony of tea is her way of taking time to pause and enjoy a moment of solitude or, more often, to share the ritual with family and friends. Conversation over a cup of tea is always thoughtful and unhurried.

Tea ranks as the most popular beverage in the world. According to ancient Chinese legend, the first tea leaves were brewed in 2737 B.C. The plant originated in a region encompassing Tibet, western China and northern India, and was introduced to Japan by Chinese Buddhist monks.

The Japanese cultivated the art of the formal tea ceremony in the 16th century, and it is still practiced today. The ceremony represents the Zen principles of harmony, respect, purity and tranquility. No wonder the western world has embraced this rite and has enhanced it with the addition of food and flowers and elegant utensils.

Use has changed

Though originally used as a mild stimulant, today we savor a cup of tea for its calming effect, as described by Donovan, co-owner of Donovan's Irish Country Store, 33817 Grand River Ave., Farmington. The Irish people greet you with a cup of tea and a plate of biscuits, much like the montage we picture, Peggy said. Bewley's Irish Breakfast tea (\$28.95), actually grown in Ceylon, has been served in Bewley's famous cafes in Dublin since 1840. "People call from all over for Bewley's tea," says Donovan. Once a luxury, tea is now a staple of Irish breakfasts.



The traditional Irish butter shortbread is another Bewley's exclusive and is so rich, a couple of bites will suffice (\$4.50). We also show a Royal Tara demitasse cup and saucer, handpainted with clovers (\$25.95), sitting atop an Irish rose-patterned crocheted dolly. The Irish brought crochet to the United States, according to Donovan.

While browsing through this charming Irish emporium, I met Rita (O'Haidis in Irish) Hughes from Redford Township. "We're long on the tea bit," she said as she regaled me with memories of her recent family tea held in Lansing. It was a catered Irish tea, complete with "the most delicious scones."

If you long for a tea ceremony that is steeped in tradition, indulge in an exclusive Tiffany & Co.-designed tea service. The venerable Tiffany's, in the Somerset Collection, presents its newest Limoges china pattern, American Garden. A celebration of plants and flowers of America, this red, white and blue design was three years in production, and is sure to become a future heirloom. (Teapot, \$290, creamer, \$110, sugar bowl, \$155).

Ceramic pieces

If you favor contemporary hand-crafted ceramics for your teatime table, visit the Carol Hooberman Gallery, 124 S. Woodward, Birmingham. The teapots of Mary Rose Young, a London ceramic artist, are hot collectibles.

If you're in the mood for a bit of pampering, treat a friend to tea at The NM Cafe at Nolman Marcus in the Somerset Collection. I stopped in at 4 p.m. on a Monday afternoon and enjoyed a peaceful interlude in a quiet, attractive setting. The Darjeeling tea was served in a pristine white teacup and presented on a linen-clothed table, complete with flowers.

The traditional tea included a selection of tea sandwiches, a raisin scone with strawberry jam and creme fraiche, a dark bittersweet chocolate-covered strawberry, and a wonderfully dense and hot-too-sweet lemon bar. Afternoon tea is \$6.95 and is served from 2:30 to 4:30 every day.

Ah! The soothing ritual of tea.

Linda Bachrack is a Birmingham resident. To give her your column ideas, call 953-2047. Ext. 1889 from your touch-tone phone.

MONDAY, JAN. 25

FITNESS OVER 50

Low impact aerobics every Monday and Wednesday, 9-10 a.m. Near Loeb & Taylor. Co-sponsored by University of Michigan. Free to public. Twelve Oaks Mall, Twelve Mile/Novi Roads. 348-9438.

CAR & TRUCK SHOW

Ten Oakland County auto dealers feature displays through Jan. 31. Sponsored by Automotive Trade Association. Aisleway markets will sell related merchandise. Summit Place Mall, Elizabeth Lake/Telegraph. 682-0122.

GERMAN FESTIVAL

Week-long activities include dinners, cultural presentations, entertainment. Call for schedule of events. Ritz-Carlton Dearborn, Hubbard/Southfield Service Drive. 441-2100.

WARHOL EXHIBIT

Continues through Wednesday, Feb. 10. "Endangered Species" portfolio includes 10 silkscreen prints produced by Andy Warhol in 1983. Co-sponsored by

ADDED ATTRACTIONS

Detroit Zoological Society, Rotunda. Exhibit premiere in Detroit area. Zoo memberships available from \$25. Somerset Collection, Big Beaver/Coolidge. 643-6350.

FABULOUS FORTIES

Sidewalk sales and entertainment. Door prize drawings. Over 40 Dance 7-9 p.m. Community Room, Freshmens. Tickets \$9 per person. Limit 300. Friday, Jan. 29, live Dorsey Band concert, 5:30 p.m. Free. Stage near Crowley's. Livonia Mall, Seven Mile/Middlebelt. 475-1162.

ANTIQUe SHOW

Through Sunday, Jan. 31. Furniture, jewelry, glass, up to 25 dealers. Antique glass repair. Westland Center, Warner/Wayne. 425-5001.

SATURDAY, JAN. 30

BANDS FESTIVAL

Center Court, 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Free concerts. Twelve Oaks Mall, Twelve Mile/Novi Road. 348-9438.

CLASSICS AND CROSSBANTS

Co-sponsored by WQRS. Performance features Michigan's finest classic musicians. Noon-2 p.m. Encores by Sebastian's Grill. \$20 per person. Proceeds benefit Detroit Institute of Arts youth/education programs and Center for Creative Studies music education program. Tickets at Conclude's Desk. Somerset Collection, Big Beaver/Coolidge. 643-6360.

GROVER QUEST STARS

WNIC disc jockey Linda Landel roads to children, 1 and 2 p.m. South grand court stage. Free photos with Grover of Settime Street. Faldene Town Center, Michigan Avenue/Southfield Freeway. 593-3330.

THURSDAY, JAN. 28