

## Heroes and authority focus of UM-D day-long session

Does the public choose its political leaders the same way it picks popular heroes?

"The Power of the Hero: Popular Culture and Political Reality," a day-long symposium set for 9 a.m. Saturday, March 25 at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, will examine this and other questions about today's culture and its heroes.

Pop culture experts from across the country will look at why heroes like Charles Bronson and John Wayne have created an authority figure that has become a standard for real leadership. The symposium, funded through a grant from the Michigan Council for the Humanities, will begin with a session on the "Study of Popular Culture," by Ray Browne, director of the

Center for the Study of Pop Culture at Bowling Green State University.

Browne has been called the "dean" of popular culture studies and is the author of numerous books including "Heroes of Popular Culture."

Other speakers will include Leslie Fiedler, Samuel Clements Professor of English, State University of New York at Buffalo.

The conference will be held in U of M-D's Recreation and Organizations Center.

The registration fee of \$10 includes lunch at the Fair Lane Conference Center and a cocktail hour following the sessions. The conference-only fee is \$3.

For further information call 271-2300, ext. 428.

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## Touching Twosome

Lorraine and Shirley, a loving pair of terrier-mixes, need a port in the storm. Both are three months old, attentive, alert and eager to please. They can be seen at the Michigan Humane Society Mini Shelter, 1329 S. Woodward, or reached at 646-5099.

## Boat access bill anchored again

"I don't think the department will ever agree to a bill," said State Sen. Donald Bishop (R-Rochester), shaking his head.

Bishop, whose district includes the lake country of western Oakland County, had just come from a hearing, last week, with the Senate conservation committee on his bill to regulate public access sites for boaters on inland lakes.

Bishop says his SB 1343 would "set criteria."

The State Department of Natural Resources says of the local property owners and townships: "They're just trying to keep the public off."

Committee Chairman Joe Mack (D-Ironwood) told Bishop and the DNR to get together and see if they can work out their disagreements.

So far, the only thing they can agree on is that Bishop and other lakes legislators, notably Rep. Rick Fessier (R-Union Lake) have introduced the same bill before.

KEITH WILSON, director of DNR's waterways division, denies there's even a problem with a glut of new access sites. "We haven't bought a parcel of property down there since 1967, and only three after 1969. Our acquisition program poses no threat to riparian owners in that county."

Bishop's bill would limit DNR to acquiring access sites only on lakes of 160 acres or more where less than 75 per cent of the frontage is in residential use.

DNR's Wilson says: "In Oakland County, the only lakes (eligible) would be those with a huge swamp or where we already own property. That takes it out of Oakland County—that is, no Oakland lakes would meet that criterion."

Bishop wants access sites only where there is a major or secondary road that is not presently overloaded with traffic.

Wilson calls that provision vague. "It doesn't say whether the road must

be overloaded all year long or only one day of the year," he said.

WILSON SEES one provision as causing too much delay in site acquisition if the bill is passed. Presently it takes 100 days to go through the legal and Natural Resources Commission procedures to acquire a site. "And that's only if everything goes exactly right."

He says Bishop's bill would add 120 days to the procedure. That adds up to 220 days, or 57 per cent of a year. A seller would be reluctant to grant DNR an option to buy his property if he had to wait 220 days to close the deal, Wilson said.

Bishop's bill would require one foot of access site frontage for every acre of lake. Thus, for a 175-acre lake, the access site would have to have 175 feet of frontage.

"You only need the width of a boat ramp plus 20 feet on either side for frontage," said Wilson. "We try to acquire a minimum of 100 feet."

A KEY RESTRICTION which Wilson says would backfire on the bill's sponsors would require one auto parking space in the access site for every five acres of lake surface.

"On the 175-acre lake we were talking about, this would mean 35 parking spaces. Under our (present) criteria, we would provide only 20 parking units. The sponsors would be run out of town by their own electorate if this passed," said Wilson.

If some lakes are crowded, it could be because there are too many boats, but it could also be because boats are traveling too fast.

"Speed limits can be placed on a lake. There is a procedure under the Marine Safety Act for doing that," said Wilson.

He added: "The owners say in effect, 'If you don't put in an access site, we don't have a problem.' That's just garbage. They're just trying to keep the public off."

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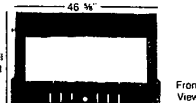
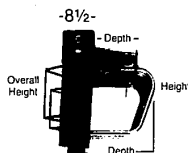
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