

# Chimney sweep no carbon copy of the past

By SHERRY KAHAN

When Chuck Holmes puts on his top hat and tails, he isn't headed for night on the town. Holmes rubs shoulders with the jet set alright—but in soot-caked suburban fireplaces not the Côte d'Azur.

He's a part-time chimney sweep. Holmes' outfit is deceiving: This up-to-date sweep from Livonia is mindful of the unhappy fate of the wheezing urchins who in previous centuries scoured English chimneys. He always

exchanges his top hat for a respirator when he goes to work.

He also lets a vacuum cleaner and brushes do the work of his predecessors, who once had to wiggle their way to the top of the chimney and then slip down.

Contrary to the life of chimney sweeps depicted in "Mary Poppins," Holmes said, "It is not a romantic business."

He added: "Many sweeps say that if you don't come out dirty, you haven't done a good job."

Why does he do it?

"I am interested in alternative sources of energy," he explained. "I believe in saving fossil fuel. Heating with wood is the perfect backup for a house that is heated with solar energy."

Other motives are that he makes \$40 per sweep and would like to go into the business of supplying fireplace products.

CREOSOTE IS THE REASON fireplace owners need Holmes when the frost is on the pumpkin and chilly

weather turns their thoughts to a romantic blaze.

"Creosote is a soot buildup and it is flammable," said the chimney sweep. "It lines the chimney and can be set on fire by a high fire."

"Once a layer of creosote is built up, it insulates the chimney and doesn't allow the masonry to absorb heat and operate the way it was planned."

Troubles can also result if lumps of masonry break free and land on the smoke shelf.

"They could cause problems if they

keep the damper from opening all the way," he said.

Holmes arrives on the scene with two drop clothes, brushes and a vacuum cleaner. The vacuum serves as the dust collector as the brushes bring

down the dirt into the fireplace. He usually tries to clean from below rather than from the roof, where he has to attach weights to the brushes

and lower them into the chimney. "I PREFER working from below," he said, "I have better control. And there is the safety factor. The less I

work on the roof the fewer my chances of falling. But in some cases the configuration of the chimney is too sharp a bend to use the cleaning rods from below, and I have to go up."

He thinks that fireplaces should be tidied up every two to five years or whenever soot falls into the fireplace when the damper is opened or closed.

"Forty-one thousand chimney fires in U.S. last year caused more than \$19 million in damages," he warned.

Holmes does free inspections. His phone number is 361-6637.

## Tannian, Patterson speak tonight

Public forums on Michigan ballot issues continue at Schoolcraft College tonight 7:30 with discussions of the denial of bail and more restrictive parole proposals.

The denial of bail plan will appear as proposal K on the ballot. Philip Tannian, attorney and former Detroit chief of police, will speak in behalf of the plan. Ann Arbor attorney Jean King will speak against it.

Parole restriction will appear as Proposal B. L. Brooks Patterson, Oakland County prosecutor, will speak in favor of the measure, while Howard Simon, executive director American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan, will speak against it.

The forum will be moderated by Beverly McAninch, city commissioner and former mayor of Plymouth.

The forum will be held in Rooms 200-210 of the Liberal Arts Building at the south end of the campus at 18900 Hagerty, Livonia.

## Nearly 36,000 at U of M for fall

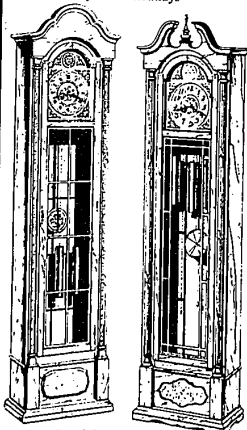
The University of Michigan's total enrollment this fall is 46,455, 438 more than last year.

The total is made up of four groups: 5,567 students at the UM-Dearborn, an increase of 481; 3,921 at the UM-Flint, an increase of 120; 35,824 students at the Ann Arbor campus, including those enrolled in graduate centers at other locations, a decrease of 130; and 753 students enrolled in credit extension courses throughout the state, a decrease of 33.

Of the 35,824 students enrolled at the Ann Arbor campus, 22,076, or 61.6 per cent, are undergraduates; 10,414, or 29.1 per cent are graduate students; and 1,334, or 9.3 per cent are graduate professional students (those in dentistry, law and medicine).

Of the Ann Arbor total, 20,800 are men, and 15,024 are women students.

## SPECIAL PRICE for the holidays



Ash Wood, Leaded Glass Door, Weight Driven Westminster Chimes, Height 72 1/2"

REG. \$640.00 NOW ONLY \$429.00

All other Grandfather Clocks 15% to 30% off. Grandfather clocks include 2 year warranty. Delivered in South Michigan Lay-A-Way for Christmas

NORTHVILLE Watch & Clock Shop

We specialize in the sale and repair of antique wristwatches and clocks. 132 WEST DUNLAP • NORTHVILLE • 349-4938 (One Block North of Main Street) 9-6 Mon. thru Sat. 12:30 to 5 Sun.

## For the Inveterate Collector: our 'SFantastic Sale of Sweaters!



Originally \$17 and \$18, now 11.90 each

At this price you'll want both the ribbed cowl and the rib-trimmed V-neck—and you'll want them in scads of colors. Soft, soft acrylic and wool blends—choose just the right ones for your pants, skirts and suits from a whole rainbow of colors! Sizes S, M or L. 'SFantastic Sportswear.

TOTAL UNITS AVAILABLE, DETROIT AND TROY, 564

# Saks Fifth Avenue

Saks Fifth Avenue, Detroit, Second at Lothrop  
Troy, Somerset Mall, Big Beaver at Coolidge, open Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays until 9 PM.