

# Dapper Danny, cuisine critic, takes writing seriously

By JACKIE KLEIN

He's been called a rascally warm and ruddy combination of Eddie Foy and Groucho Marx, a gourmet in literature, a devoted friend and a humanitarian.

He appreciates and mentions waitresses who smile, busboys who are efficient, good corned beef and bagels, Veal Oscar, hot coffee in clean cups and relaxing restaurant atmospheres. When he's critical, he doesn't mention names.

If you haven't guessed by now, he's Danny Raskin, dining and entertainment columnist for the Jewish News. Raskin, 59, has also been writing his "Listening Post" column for 37 years. His mother, Minnie, 94, has kept a scrapbook of his articles since the first one in 1942.

Included in the scrapbook are mementos from Oct. 13, 1970 which was proclaimed "Danny Raskin Day" by then Oak Park Mayor Joe Forbes, now majority floor leader in the State House of Representatives.

That night, 600 persons gathered in the Raleigh House, Southfield, for a testimonial dinner honoring Raskin for his dedication to the community and to local and national charities.

"Danny and I go back a long time and nobody could be a better friend," Forbes said recently. "I remember when we used to put on the Oak Park Pillies to raise funds for schools."

## Ms. Shuster nominated

Bonnie Shuster, of 35240 Drakeshire, Farmington, is one of 14 graduate students at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University who are nominated to the Presidential Management Internship Program.

## Boy Scouts soar

Boy Scout Troop 263 of Farmington Hills will receive the Eagle Scout award, the highest honor given to a scout at 8 p.m. Jan. 12 at North Farmington High School.

The honored scouts are: Richard

"DANNY HAS a terrific sense of humor besides being a guy with a heart of gold. As we politicians say, he's in the 95-100 percentile."

Raskin, a 6-plus footer who enjoys wearing dapper clothes, smoking good cigars, twirling his mustache, raising his eyebrows one at a time and making people laugh, said he's never interviewed anyone in his long writing career and he's never been interviewed himself.

"I'm interested in every facet of people. I love making them feel good and being a writer is my life," he said. "I believe in communicating with warmth and compassion as well as humor."

Raskin's early columns for the Jewish News were called "Jewish Youths' Listening Post." They were devoted to young persons in the service during World War II.

"I wrote articles to let readers know where and how they could contact boys in service," Raskin recalled. "I got letters from servicemen who said 'The hell with K-rations, let us get mail from home.' They sent me photographs to put them in touch with friends and relatives. That was my way of helping."

Raskin received a citation from the War Department for promoting the sale of war bonds, for participating in USO shows and for his column.

AFTER THE war, "Jewish Youths' Listening Post" became "Danny

In its second year, the program recruits 250 of the nation's top graduates from public management schools. The finalists will work in a federal agency for two years. About 75 of the interns chosen last year are working in Washington.

Brewer, Donald Grochan, Jo John Gunderson, Eric Koepflin and Raymond Smith, State Representative from the 12th District, Dennis Hertel (D-Detroit) will be the guest speaker.

The public is invited. Refreshments will be served.

## Benefit features Polish cuisine

The University of Detroit High School Mothers' Club will sponsor a "Polish Evening" on Jan. 12 7:30 p.m. at the high school located at 8400 Seven Mile, south of Cambridge.

Tickets, costing \$9, may be purchased at the door or by calling Mrs. Joseph Pagetta at 477-3932 or Mrs. Joseph Lockman at 577-1637.

The dinner, celebrating the school's 102nd birthday, will feature Stan Aramus and his polka band.



DANNY RASKIN

Raskin's "Listening Post" which, he said, includes a little bit of everything. It's not unusual to see Raskin at a gathering scribbling bits of conversations on match folders or cocktail napkins.

About 15 years ago, "Danny Raskin's Best of Everything" dining and entertainment column was launched in the Jewish News.

"I had always written about places to eat and I've been around restaurants and nightclubs for a lot of years," Raskin recalled. "But my column is more than a review of dining spots. I include household hints, recipes, compliments about waitresses and busboys I like and other items."

"I don't want to hurt anyone so I don't mention names of waitresses and restaurants I don't like. No restaurant is 100 per cent good or bad. I'm not a critic, a gourmet or a wine connoisseur. And I don't have a favorite dish or a favorite place to eat."

The food can be the greatest, Raskin maintained, but it's not enjoyable if served by unpleasant waiters or waitresses. He believes it's unfair to restaurant managers and good chefs if

meals are improperly served to customers. And, Raskin added, he doesn't like customers to get clipped.

RASKIN IS respected by other restaurant writers. In "DEATroit," a selective guide to restaurants in the Detroit area by Detroit News critic Molly Abraham, the author wrote, "To Danny, who should have written this book."

Mary Conway and Harry Satchwell, who wrote "Meet, Eat and Enjoy Greater Detroit," autographed their 1978 edition to Raskin as the "one in our business we respect more than any other." The 1979 edition says, "To Danny, one who knows more about the restaurant business than anyone in town."

In Dave Fekay's "The Sensuous Kitchen" the author wrote "To Danny Raskin, a gourmet in literature."

Raskin's list of charitable and civic organizations he has helped is almost as long as all the columns he has written.

ten. As he puts it, he's a doer, not merely a joiner.

Raskin, along with religious leaders, has brought holiday meals to inmates of state prisons. He's a national representative of Saints and Sinners who support and aid mentally retarded children, three-time chancellor commander of the Knights of Pythias, Detroit Lodge No. 55 and a Crescent Shriner.

He received an award for public service and support to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and is director of public relations for the City of Hope businessmen's group which contributes to the research of cancer and other catastrophic diseases.

Raskin visited the National Research Medical Center in Duarte, Cal. which is supported by City of Hope.

"I want to be involved," he said. "I can best serve by letting people know what fantastic research is being done and the breakthroughs which are being made. That's part of what communicating is all about."

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## Corrosion is costly to owners

With the onslaught of winter and the tons of accompanying salt to be spread across roads, automobile owners' concern turn toward corrosion.

Corrosion is the eating away of metal due to its exposure to various environments, especially moisture.

A study undertaken by the National Bureau of Standards (NBS) estimates that metallic corrosion costs the country about \$70 billion a year.

Its cost to automobile owners is between \$6-\$14 billion.

Corrosion costs for automobiles fall into one of three categories:

- Money paid for built-in protection, such as heavier, more expensive metals, special designs or coatings.

- Money spent on maintenance or operating costs, such as replacement of mufflers, tail pipes and radiators or painting.

- Premature replacement—the loss incurred by selling a car early at a reduced value and buying another because of corrosion damage.

The NBS study also indicated that automobile owners could save between \$2-\$3 billion through the use of anti-corrosion techniques and improved maintenance.

Commercially marketed and homemade preparations can be effective in removing corrosion from a metal object once it has occurred.

A pamphlet, "Corrosion Facts from the Consumer," published by NBS, explains the various types of corrosion, how to prevent and remove them, and a guide to anti-corrosion features to look for when purchasing metal objects.

It is available for 80 cents from Consumer Information Center, Pueblo, Colorado 81009.

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