

# Who Needs Art Talent? Learn And Do Your Best

"Poor Michelangelo - just think what he could have left the world if he'd had talent!"

That's a favorite comment of renowned painter Helen Van Wyck, who recently completed

a week's classes in Livonia and hopes to return early next year.

"My students tell me so often they wish they had more talent," said the tall blonde lady from New England who is considered one of the country's top painters and teachers.

"My answer to that is that anyone who paints - including Michelangelo - can only do his best. We don't really know he was the most talented artist of his time. We know only that he worked the hardest and left the world the most."

MISS VAN WYCK'S afternoon and evening classes, held with the cooperation of the Livonia Adult Education department, were in Hoover elementary school, 15900 Levan.

Her intensive courses - including both demonstration and technique practice - consists of 2 1/2 hours daily for five days.

The students do two or three paintings in that time. On one of her visits to this area, Livonia art teachers were given time off to attend.

"She's a great teacher," said one student. "She helps you a lot, but doesn't take over your painting. She makes it so easy, I really think anyone could learn."

From a technique standpoint, Miss Van Wyck agrees.

"Anyone can learn the craft of painting," she said. "The perceptive student becomes the artist."

MISS VAN WYCK demonstrated a still life with books and flowers for her final class of the visit here.

She put in flowers with quick,



EXPERT INSTRUCTION - Painter Helen Van Wyck, right, gives tips to Jo Schmidt of Farmington, left, and Ruth Porter of Livonia during her recent teaching visit to this area.

defert strokes, and one of the women commented:

"I'd have taken two hours for each of those flowers."

The lights were turned down as Miss Van Wyck finished the still life, which was later presented to Matt Bliz, head custodian of Hoover School, in appreciation of his services.

"We tend to paint in too much light," she said.

MISS VAN WYCK said she enjoys teaching and finds it as creative as painting. Her public relations agent, Herb Rogoff, added: "She feels every painter should keep relearning the basics by teaching."

Miss Van Wyck and Rogoff are collaborating on a book on acrylic painting and getting some of the work done during

their current demonstration and workshop trip.

They headed for Fort Dodge, Iowa, after leaving Livonia, and will also stop at Sioux Falls, Iowa; St. Joseph, Mo., Carlsbad, N.M., and Lubbock, Texas, before returning to the artists' studio and gallery in Rockport, Mass.

Tentative plans include a return visit to Livonia in January.



By Jay Stokan

Skiing equipment has come a long way since the days of barrel staves. Synthetic materials now play an important part in the construction of modern skis and boots.

Many skiers are skeptical of this transition. The truth of the matter is, synthetics have been engineered into ski equipment to improve performance and lengthen the life of this equipment.

Fiberglass reinforced plastics have greatly improved the performance of today's skis. This was illustrated by their performance in Grenoble during the last Winter Olympics. The same synthetics have been used to improve the support and lengthen the life of modern ski boots.

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Jay Stokan

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## Asks Death For Killers

LANSING Prompted by the killing of a Detroit police officer, a Republican state senator is renewing efforts to gain "limited capital punishment" in Michigan.

Sen. George Kuha (R-Birmingham) has introduced a measure that would expand the current legislative session—now open only to education, taxation and appropriations matters—for discussion of pending legislation dealing with crime.

Kuha, whose district includes Farmington, Livonia and Plymouth, wants the Legislature to discuss an already proposed constitutional amendment al-

lowing the death penalty for murdering a police officer or fireman and a bill authorizing "stop and frisk" by peace officers.

His move to allow immediate consideration was defeated in the Senate and the measure was sent to the Senate Business Committee for study.

Kuha indicated his action resulted from the death early Sunday of Detroit Patrolman Paul Babin, 24. His companion, William Skibo, was wounded.

"Death of the patrolman and other police in recent months is an extraordinary problem and it needs extraordinary action," Kuha said.

"It's gotten out of hand in this state," agreed Sen. Robert Huber, R-Troy. "We've been knocking them off pretty regularly lately."

"How many police officers have to be senselessly killed before our legislators will take whatever action is necessary to stop this activity?" said Kuha.

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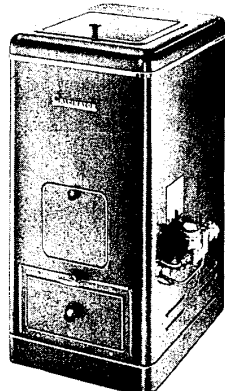
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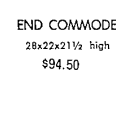
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