



One-man band

Dennis Vernier plays the sounds of a four-piece dance band Tuesday-Friday, from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., at the Spanish Colonial Room adjoining Howard Johnson's on Ten Mile and Northwestern in Southfield. Vernier is a vocalist and guitarist, who also plays organ, bass and drums.

Focus: HOPE announces annual Folk Festival

The 11th annual Focus: HOPE Christmas Folk Festival will be held in two parts again this year.

Part 1 on Sunday, Dec. 16, at 3:30 p.m., will be hosted by the Railroad Crossing Lounge at 6640 E. Eight Mile Road, Detroit. Part 2 will take place on Monday, Dec. 17, at 8 p.m., at the Raven Gallery, 12 Mile and Greenfield, Southfield.

For the past decade, Focus: HOPE has brought to Detroiters local and nationally known folk performers on one stage.

Scheduled to appear in concert are Ron Cohen, Dean Rutledge, Phil Marcus Esser, Orthea Barnes-Brown, Mildred Vane, Mary Foley, Rose Rizzo, Charlie Latimer, Barbara Bredius, Josh White Jr., Jeff Nahan and more. Once again, radio and television personality Bob Hynes and newspaper columnist Bob Talbert will join in as

Concerts

masters of ceremony. Food and beverage service is available. All proceeds from this event will be to Focus: HOPE, a metropolitan civil and human rights organization. All performers, as well as the people serving, are donating their services.

Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$6 at the door. Advance ticket holders are guaranteed seats until one-half hour before show time. After that, seating is on an available basis. If arriving late, advance ticket holders will be offered standing room or a complete refund. Tickets are available at the Railroad Crossing, the Raven Gallery or by calling Focus: HOPE at 883-7440.

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Improvisational acting classes offered

Improvisational theatre began 20 years ago in Chicago under the direction of Viola Spolin and was further developed by her son, Paul Sills, originator of The Second City Improvisational Theatre.

Improvisational training has been instrumental in the development of such talents as Alan Alda, Alan Arkin, Mike Nichols, Elaine May, Joan Rivers, David Steinberg, Ann Meara and Jerry Stiller. Valerie Harper, Gilda Radner, John Belushi, Bill Murray, Dan Ackroyd and Robin Williams to name a few.

Classes in this technique are now being offered in Detroit by Jonathon Round. After touring and promoting his Westbound Records release, "Jonathon Round," Round completed a series of workshops conducted at The Second City under the direction of Del Close, one of the nation's leading improvisational directors.

Round involved in the methods used to train improvisational actors and actresses but was dissatisfied

with the extent to which these techniques were applied.

As a result, Round left The Second City workshops to form the El Blot Tyl Lyst Improvisational Theatre, an organization still active in Chicago today.

JONATHON ROUND, in conjunction with the Raven Gallery, pays tribute to the art of improvisation by opening a workshop series called Improvisational Theatre-Plus.

Materials to be covered include spin-offs of techniques gleaned from past studies in the Chicago improvisational workshops and experimental techniques developed by Jonathon and The El Blot Tyl Lyst players.

The cost for 10 workshops is \$100 (payable in advance). The workshops will be held on 10 consecutive Saturdays between 1 and 3:30 p.m. and will include a color video tape review of each session.

The only requirement is that participants be at least 17. No previous stage or acting experience is necessary, al-

though trained actors and actresses also may find these sessions beneficial.

An advanced course will be offered only upon completion of the basic course.

The class schedule will be announced upon acceptance of 30 applications (the maximum number of students to be accepted for this first session).

Applications for the workshops are available at the Raven Gallery, 29101 Greenfield Rd., Southfield. For further information, call the Raven at 557-8522 after 2 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday.

Comedy Store talents visit

Comedy tonight! Three wild and zany guys from the Los Angeles Comedy Store have been imported for five nights of entertainment at the Raven Gallery in Southfield.

Ellis Levinson, Michael Rappaport and Mitch Walters will perform Wednesday, Nov. 28, through Sunday, Dec. 2. Show times are 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday, and 8:30 and

10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. The Raven is at 29101 Greenfield.

Levinson has appeared on "Make Me Laugh," "Chuch Barris' "Rah Rah Show" and Don Kirshner's "Rock Concert." Rappaport's credits include Norm Crosby's "Comedy Shop," "Make Me Laugh" and the "Mike Douglas Show." Walters, who appears at L.A.'s Comedy Store, is an active television comedy writer.

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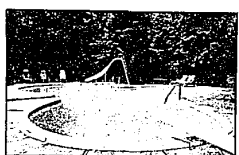
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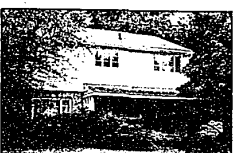
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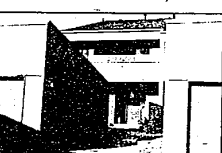
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