

# Channel 56

## They're still looking for money

Channel 56, faced with an increasing fiscal year deficit, has launched a "Last Ditch Appeal" for the month of June to offset projected losses for the year.

It will run one-minute notices during the day in order to reach as many viewers as possible and appeal for donations.

Also, the channel is contacting present contributors to the station and asking for an additional donation.

The "Last Ditch Appeal" is being made because Channel 56 faces a record deficit of more than \$100,000 for the 1978-79 fiscal year, according to Development Director Agnes Scott. Despite the success of various pledge nights and the auction, in which the station raised more money than ever before, the costs of purchasing and presenting programs has

outpaced the returns from these efforts.

If the shortage of funds continues, then Channel 56 will be forced to use money allocated for the 1979-80 year. This means that there will have to be cutbacks in station services and program purchases for the coming year.

Anyone with questions concerning the "Last Ditch Appeal" is invited to contact the station. Donations can be made anytime day or night by phoning pledges to 1-800-688-5321.

## ... and popular series is back

"I, Claudius," the series that depicts the murderous intrigue and unparalleled lust that characterized the rulers of ancient Rome, has returned to Channel 56 on Sundays at 9 p.m.

This 13-part British production of "I, Claudius" won six awards on the BBC and will be seen on PBS as part of the "Masterpiece Theater" series.

"I, Claudius" is based on the best-selling novels by Robert Graves and is set in ancient Rome. It tells the story of the Claudians, the family whose business was ruling the world. The single-minded pursuit of power that was inherent within the family eventually led to their downfall as well as that of Rome's.

The series stars Derek Jacobi as the stuttering, limping Claudius who surprised everyone by becoming emperor. Also featured are Sian Phillips as the evil Livia, Brian Blessed as Augustus, John Hurt as Caligula and Margaret Tyzack as Antonia.

## Shuttle explained in U-M space series

The University of Michigan Astronomical Film Festival will present a free public program, "The Space Shuttle: Latest Prospects and Problems," at 7:30 p.m. Friday in Auditorium 3 of the Modern Languages Building.

Jim London, festival director and staff astronomer for U-M's Exhibit Museum, will discuss the shuttle's landmark events — "from the atmospheric flight tests of the orbiter 'Enterprise' to the rollout and flight to Cape Canaveral of the 'Columbia,' which will be the first shuttle orbiter actually to enter space."

He will show films about the astronauts who will fly the shuttle, including the United States' first woman to fly in space.

Because of the shuttle's developmental problems, its first scheduled flight has been delayed from last March to this November or even later, London said.

The shuttle will cut the cost of getting into space to a tenth its present value," he added. It will be capable of such things as "orbiting non-manned passengers and receiving unmanned satellites that have malfunctioned in orbit."

The Astronomical Film Festival is sponsored by U-M's Exhibit Museum and the department of aerospace engineering.

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## Theater reopens July 5 at WSU

Alan Ayckbourn's comedy "Absurd Person Singular" will open the Summer Theater Festival at Wayne State University's Hillberry Theater at 8:30 p.m. Thursday, July 5.

Performances continue at 8:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, July 6-7, and Wednesday-Saturday, July 11-14.

Ayckbourn, who has been called the British Neil Simon, has had great success on Broadway, where his current offering is "Bedroom Farce." Ayckbourn constructs his plot like a Chinese puzzle, fitting together each intricate piece in the lives of three different couples to form a unified whole.

THE CHARACTERS IN "Absurd Person Singular" come close to destroying each other, not because of malice, but because of their own ineptness. While the characters have trouble dealing with themselves and others, they have worse luck with physical objects. Even replacing a light bulb becomes a funny, though almost catastrophic, ordeal.

Running through this hilarity is the story of the rise and fall of these couples from vastly different backgrounds, who meet for Christmas Eve parties over a three-year period. The working class couple rises to wealth, the aristocrats begin to descend economically and the third couple struggles to stay in the middle.

The cast consists of Dianne Winslow, Kristin Reeves-Beauchamp, Buckner Gibbs, Richard Gustin, Barbara Acker and Mark Robbins, directed by Robert Emmett McGill, with scenery by Russell Smith, lighting by Marc C. Riske, and costumes by Jackie Durbin.

Tickets and information for the entire Summer Theater Festival of six productions are available at the box office in the Hillberry Theater, Cass and Hancock, Detroit 48202. The telephone number is 577-2972.

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2"x8"	4.59	5.76	7.25	8.57	10.59	12.51	15.44
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SIZE	8 FT.	10 FT.	12 FT.	14 FT.	16 FT.	18 FT.	20 FT.
2"x10"	5.97	7.73	11.40	13.87	15.85	17.10	18.99
2"x12"	9.50	11.88	14.76	15.87	19.68	23.60	24.70
4"x6"	9.97	11.96	13.96	16.53	21.42	25.14	
6"x6"	14.95	17.94	20.93	24.50	32.63	37.72	

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1"x6"	.29 lin. ft.	.24 lin. ft.
1"x8"	.36 lin. ft.	.31 lin. ft.
1"x10"	.45 lin. ft.	.39 lin. ft.
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1x10-6	\$3.00	\$2.28
1x12-6	\$4.44	\$3.30

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1x6-6	\$2.74	\$1.84
1x8-6	\$3.44	\$2.44
1x10-6	\$4.00	\$3.30
1x12-6	\$5.52	\$3.90

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	REG.	SPECIAL
2x4-6	\$1.00	.89
2x6-6	\$2.00	\$1.38
2x8-6	\$3.00	\$1.80
2x10-6	\$3.99	\$2.58
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