## Farmington Observer

Thursday, August 27, 1981

## <u>Mona</u> Fans adore her

Mona is the cute, full-cheeked, blond, pigtailed starlet of a Detroit-based and nationally popular syndi-cated early Sunday morning puppet

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THROUGH MONA O'Connor proven herself to be a talented yet shrewd businesswoman who is al-ready contemplating expansion into her own sydicated television show. O'Connor recently began working on a second Detroit-based puppet show oilot.

O'Connor recently began working on second Detroit-based puppet show pilot. "This is really weird," said O'Con-ner, "but when I was first with the show. I had come out of an unfor-tunate working situation and felt in secure. Glean (Mona's boyfriend, one of the other puppets she works on the showy was very insecure at first, too. "Mona was already established on the show. So I picked up on her main characteristics and wologed them use the shear at a stablished on the show. So I picked up on her main the shear at a stablished on the show. So I picked up on her main the shear at a stablished on the show. So I picked up on her main the shear at a stablished on the shear at a stablished on the shear at a stablished on the shear work of the shear at a stablished on the shear at a stablished on the shear at a stablished on the shear with Mona, Legan taking on more characteristics similiar to Mona, think, not worrying so much what other people think of me, which

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Glenn still has a problem with. "I am, myself, becoming more se-cure. I am identifying more with Mona and she has helped me to do that

Mona and she has helped me to do that. "I see how people receive her. They love her. They think she's great. They think she refreshing. They laugh at her jokes. "Well, where do you suppose the jokes come from? They come from me doing something I wish I could have done as a kid."

O'CONNOR BEGAN Mona's pub-

O'CONNOR BEGAN Mona's pub-lic relations tour out of necessity, he was a recently divorced mother of two iteragers attending private schools and she needed to augment her income. None of the "Hot Hodge" puppets had yet been mer-chandised in public appearances. And while a number of puppet Coronor saw she had the opportuni-ty to market something likened to a likes Piggy on the local level. Most school and she had the opportuni-ty to market something likened to a likes Piggy on the local level. The sait down with the Yellow Pages and began calling numerous shop rere forbiad it berself. Mona's voice was the one she used to invite the work then one she used to invite the promotional dis berself. Mona's voice them in for a meeting with promotional dis berself. Mona's voice them in for a meeting with promotional dis berself. Mona's voice and resume. Thinking back on it, O'Comor ad-misering basimess with a pup-et. The approach was successful

describe doing business with a pup-pet." The approach was successful — better than she imagined. Crowds have greeted Mona at most of Detroit's regional shopping centers. She has done fashion shows, jadge a "Moris the Cair cai an at the Dearbithe Ionk-alike from about a0 initie girls in Southfield, escorted Christmas shoppers



Puppeteer Marilyn O'Connor is the voice behind puppet Mona.

throughout the stores in Livonia, adopted grandparents in Haper Woods, held "chairside chairs" during Sunday brunch at the Detroit Plaza Hotel's Cafe Renaissance at the Re-naissance Center, appeared at the Detroit AuG Show, participated in telekhons and has even been inter-viewed on most of the leading De-troit radio and television shows.

SHE AND MIME friend P.J. Rags warmed up the audiences for Victor Borge during Young Audience Week last March at the Music Hall. She has been husy since, doing lecture-demonstration's on TV productions in school systems throughout the area

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## "Hot Fudge," the creation of Bob Enicky, first aired in Detroit in 1974. Now in syndication, the show is seen in some 77 markets around the constry. It is aired locally at 230 a.m. Sundays on Channel 7. Be-ginning Sept. 7, Channel 50 will pick it up on a daily basis, at 8:30 a.m. Wondays-Fridays. Enicky Enter-prises holds the copyright to Mona and all the other "Hot Fudge" char-acters.

acters. If you haven't already seen it, "Hot Fudge" is an educational show targeted to the family. It deals with everyday problems, showing ele-mentary-aged children how to deal with them.

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## **Basie**, **Brubeck** would get votes

entertainment

By Jim Windell special writer

Classical music has its three Bs in Bach, Beethoven and Brahms. If jazz had its own version of the three Bs, there might be a lot of votes for the two musicians who appeared at Nead-ow Brook Music Festival on Friday with

two musicians who appeared at Mead-ow Brook Music Festival on Friday. Court Basic and Dave Brubeck to-form account for a significant mount of jazz history. Basic goes back when he took over the Benny Moten best Coast in the mid-40s, heiped to jounds of jazz meter. Basic and the mid-40s, heiped to jounds of jazz while also playing ticks. The signal event at Meadow Brook, on the okaland University campus mear Ro-can electric golf cart. But a bears for jounder a lifest of the play molecular measure of human.

THE TWINKLING one-finger plano stylings remain intact while the Basie band retains a robust sound. If the pro-gram is a bit predictable, there are still occasions of blasting brass and plenty of room for the younger musicians to rele

of room for the younger musicians to solo. And you can always count on the Count to have a swinging bass player and a young, eager drummer. The highlight of the Basie portion of the concert leatured the heavy-voiced singing of Dennis Rowland. Out of the Joe Williams tradition, Rowland is a Detroiter who's handled the Basie vo-eal chores for four years. Detroiter who's handled the Basie vo-cal chores for four years. Rowland crackled his way through Williams' big '50s hit, 'Everyday I Have the Blues,' but his good looks, a voice to match and a couple of newer numbers make him the hit of the Basie

hour. Opening the last Friday night con-cert of the season was the Dave Bru-

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review beck Quartet. Because he hasn't been at Meadow Brook for five years, it was a good chance for old Brubeck fans to catch up on what the controversial pia-nist of the '50s is up to these days.

AS THE SELLOUT crowd discov ered, Dave Brubeck is playing as well

He spins out long solos that, while still sometimes heavy-handed, are of-ten playful romps with frequent quotes from other songs. There was some de-

suit sometimes heavy-nanced, are of-ten playlur tomps with frequent quotes from other songs. There was some de-lightful missing during his hittid solo on a theme taken from a Mass he re-Mixing guring his hittid solo take the source of the source of the source standards social base of the source of the standards social of the source of the source tandards social of the source of the source partiel were fresh and invigorating. Take Five's as an encore. However, the base to the source of the base to the source of the source of the base to the source of the source of the base to the source of the source of the control of the source of the def and the source of the source of the def and the source of the source of the def and the source of the source of the def and the source of the source of the def and the source of the source of the def and the source of the source of the def and the source of the source of the source of the def and the source of the source of the def and the source of the source of the def and the source of the source of the source of the def and the source of the source of the source of the def and the source of the source of the source of the def and the source of the source of the source of the def and the source of the source of the source of the source of the def and the source of the source of the source the and arbit the source of the sourc

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