Dave Fischer, a survivor from Christmas of 1982, showed up for work to handle the stock and the crowds during the post-Christ-mas sales-and-return season.

recreation news

Each week the Farmington Hills irks and Recreation Department

INDIANAPOLIS 500 TRIP — Why plan now for the Indy 500? All tickets will be sold out in March. We are offering a complete two-day tour package which will include round-trip deluxe motor-coach transportation, one night's lodging, baggage handling and reserved ticket of the Indy 500. The date of the trip is May 28-29. The cost is \$135/single or \$120/double (per person). Tickets are limited.

YOUTH INSTRUCTIONAL BOWL-YOUTH INSTRUCTIONAL BOWL-ING — Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation, in cooperation with Bel-airo, Country and Nor-West Lanes, will offer a comprehensive weekly program for third, court-and tittheyaders will teach individuals correct lane ap-proach, ball delivery, timing and scor-proach, ball delivery, timing and scor-proach, ball delivery, timing and scor-tic proach, ball delivery, timing and control of the score of the score of the score during the week and 93-03-11 a.m. at Nor-West Lanes Saturday only. The fee

> SALE 25% to 50% OFF

Harry Miller

Mon. thrs Thurs. 8:30 am to 6 pm

is \$12. Register at the parks and recreation office.

BILL KOCH SKI LEAGUE — The Bill Koch League is a cross country ski club directed toward boys and girls, 7-18 years old. The league ofter isesons, games, races, club patches, mowiletters. The first season will take place \$2.00-11 a.m. on three consecutive Saturdays, beginning Jan. 8, at the Glen Oaks Ski Center. The fee is \$23 and includes ski rental; \$13 with your own equipment.

snowball softBall smash — We will be hosting a 16-team singleelimination men's softball tournament on Jan. 22 at Drake Park and the Knights of Columbus fields: Team registration is \$50 per team, which includes softballs, umpires, scorekeper and trophies for the first- and secondplace teams. This is a unique winter opportunity which will be played snow or shine. Registration deadline is Jan. 14.

<u>Season's unsung heroes</u>

Store clerks cope with returns

By Craig Piechura staff writer

Sure, some of them got a little short-tempered at times but so did the shoppers. On the whole, department store sales clerks have to be the unsung heroes of the hollday season. The patience of Job was exhibited by a clerk in one exchange observed just before Christmas in the alies of Toys R Us. The shopper, showing definite signs of advanced fearle, demanded to know why the Ms. Pac-Man stuffed animal didn't come with "the munchy things" like husband Pac-Man had.

The sales clerk politely explained that she didn't really know why the fuzzy little munchkin sidekicks only accompany Pac-Man and not his wife. She suggested buying Pac-Man.

The woman shricked that the gift was for her daughter, who's a girl, and girls get Ms. Pac-Man, not Pac-Man and "whoever heard of something so stupid" as including the munchy things with Pac-Man and not Ms. Pac-Man?

No sale.
One of the busiest department stores in the country this year was the Kmart chain. Clerks in the Farmington store at Grand River and Halsted sald shoppers waited until the last week before and the day after Christmas to descend in decays.

"They always say the day after Thanksglving is the busiest day," said sales clerk Pat Nawrocki of Livonis. "But bere it was busier the last week and the day after Christmas."

SHOPPERS at Kmart were ex-tremely polite the day after Christmas, Nawrocki says, even though they lined up outside the storo before it opened and had to wait for sales clerks to mark down the merchandise when the

mark down the merchandise woon the doors opened. "Christmas wrapping, Christmas lighta, tree trimmings, we sold out an awful lot of that stuff."
But the store still had an abundant supply of E.T. wrapping paper and Smurf Christmas paraphenalla.

It was hard to avoid the E.T. onslaught, the Pac-Man mania and all the Smurf atulf on sale this Christmas season. There were kids slippers with Papa Smurf's head on the toe, E.T. talking dolls, Smurf sheeping bags, E.T. stuffed animals, Smurf broom and dust pan set, Pac-Man bank, Pac-Man windup toys, etc., etc., etc. ad infinitum.

John and Dalare Delaney came to Kmart to pick up a pair of prescription glasses but figured they wouldn't got out the door without buying their son, who's just shy of 1, another toy, But John swore it wouldn't be any E.T.

"That E.T. thing, I don't go for it," Delaney said. "He's over-exploited and Travis doesn't even know what E.T. is." Still, the Delaneys didn't escape the media bilt entirely. Travis laughed at the multi-colored Pac-Man puppet his parents held and it looked like that toy was headed for the check-out counter.

Sales clerk Nawrocki said she doesn't mind it when there are a lot of shoppers because "I like to stay busy." What she doesn't like are shoppers who tear open packages to see what parts are inside and leave the opened item out to be scattered.

Also annoying, she said, are customers who pick up a piece of merchandise and dump it somewhere on the other side of the store when they change their mind.

AS SHE SPOKE she picked up a cannisomeon dimped in the toy department. "In Christmas lights they'll open
up a package to replace one or five
spirate."

bulbs burned out back at home," she said.
Such customers probably don't think they're stealing, said the sales clerk, but items with missing parts can't be sold.
Dave Fischer had a busy time work-ing in the electronics and appliance de-

Dave Flecher had a busy lime working in the electronies and appliance of a partners of the property of the pro

Each week ne Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department will present a synopsis of upcoming activities in this column. For fur-ther information regarding our pro-gram, please contact our office at 474-8115.

ICE RINK FLOODING — If you are interested in having your commons or nearby ice rink flooded, the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department can assist you.

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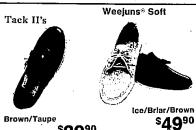


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