

Folk singer White comes to area

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White, who talked to a small group of teens after the concert, replied, "I try and break down walls with my music. If you do the same, then it's an equal situation."

"TOO OFTEN, PEOPLE are afraid to open up and expose too much of themselves. They're afraid someone will laugh at them."

White admitted that his music is out of the mainstream of popular music. But, he still finds receptive audiences at night clubs such as Baker's Key-board Lounge and the Soup Kitchen Sa-

loon, both in Detroit, as well as coffee houses around the country.

A regular at the now-defunct Raven Gallery in Southfield, White has made five "unsuccessful" albums.

He recently completed a three-week performance at Lansing's BoardHead Theatre of "Joah," a one-man show about the life and times of his folksinger father.

AT A STUDENT'S request, White performed a couple of songs from the musical, including "One Meatball." That song, about a man who could only

afford to buy one meatball during the Great Depression, sold a million copies in the 1940s. As a result, White's father became the first black man to sell a million records.

"My father died in 1969," White told the audience. "Throughout much of my adult life, I've been exposing his songs to the public."

"He wrote one of the songs after visiting Fort Dix in New Jersey during World War II. He was startled to find that the armed services were segregated."

"BLACK MEN who were fortunate enough to become lawyers and doctors were mess boys or cooks in the army while white men (in the same profession) were automatically made second lieutenants."

White's father later performed the song for President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

The lyrics tell the story: "Airplanes flyin across land and sea . . . every body flyin but a Negro like me . . . all they got is a mess boy's job for me . . . Uncle Sam says keep all your aprons, son . . . when trouble starts we'll be in that same big fight . . ."

Children awarded for accomplishments

Members and staff at Redford's Adam H. Server branch of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Detroit are beaming because two of the programs developed at the club won top honors in the recent honor awards for program excellence competition conducted by Boys Clubs of America.

Unit director Tim Kowalski recently returned from Dallas, Texas where the awards for the ten most innovative programs in the country were presented during the 77th annual Boys Clubs of America national conference. The event was sponsored by the Reader's Digest Development Fund.

A third honor award was earned by the club unit in northwest Detroit, marking the first time in the 19-year history of the program that one Boys & Girls Club organization earned three of the ten awards presented.

"WE ARE naturally very proud that our organization did so well in the national honor awards program," Kowalski said. "And we are especially thrilled that our Redford club was able to capture two of the awards."

"The real credit goes to our staff, our members, and, of course, to the tremendous support we receive from our unit management council, mothers ser-

vices club and other community volunteers."

The Server building's winning programs were in the areas of health promotion and cultural enrichment.

The ABC (altering body concerns) program encouraged youngsters to maintain good physical health. It began as a health fair organized by the club's youth advisory council in which the entire building was turned into a medical clinic. Medical professionals, paramedics and volunteers were on hand to provide thorough physical examinations at no cost to club members. Monthly health themes such as dental

hygiene and fitness awareness were sponsored and medical professionals made followup visits to the club. Other health agencies provided literature, film strips and related materials.

IN THE cultural enrichment area, Boys & Girls Club members researched board games from different cultures and historical periods for the "Games People Have Always Played" program. These games allow players to be Egyptian kings, Chinese soldiers or Viking warriors. By conducting library research on the games, youngsters learned history and geography in an interesting way, thus read more at school and for recreation. The members also developed leadership skills by teaching the games to others and by running weekly tournaments.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Metropolitan Detroit, which are supported by the United Foundation Torch Drive, are among 1,100 boys club facilities in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Staffed by career professionals and volunteers, boys clubs provide youth employment, health, juvenile justice and delinquency prevention programs and other vital services on a daily basis to 1.2 million young people.

recreation news

Each week the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department will present a synopsis of upcoming activities in this column. For further information regarding our programs, contact our office at 474-6115.

RECREATION OPEN SWIM — The spring season of recreational swimming began April 18 in North Farmington High School and will continue on Monday evenings through June 6. Swimming begins at 7 p.m. and continues to 9:15 p.m. however, adults have the pool to themselves beginning at 8:15 p.m. The fee is 75 cents for children and teens and \$1 for adults. Open swimming requires that all children must be accompanied by a parent if their chin height is below 38 inches.

NORTHWEST THERAPEUTIC SOFTBALL LEAGUE — In cooperation with the Northwest Therapeutic Recreation Association, we are forming a softball team for mentally impaired individuals, ages 13 and up. To join the Farmington Hills Pandas, please register at our office. Games will begin Sunday, June 5. The entry fee is \$5 a person which includes all league needs, participation patch and year-end picnic.

SENIOR ADULT WOMEN'S GOLF — Golf lessons begin Tuesday, May 24, and will be held on a Tuesday/Thursday schedule through June 16. The lessons will take place at Sliger's Driving Range on Grand River. Classes will be held from 11-11:50 a.m. The fee is \$10. You must have your own clubs and you will need to purchase a bucket of balls for each lesson. Register at the senior center.

SAFETY TOWN — Safety Town is an educational setting at which safety lessons are taught. The child learns through actual participation and dem-

onstrations. Instructions include pedestrian, motorist, bus, stranger, police, fire, railroad crossing, bicycle, drug and general play and home safety. Farmington Hills Safety Town is a 20-hour course (two hours a day, five days per week) designed especially for children entering kindergarten this fall. All other 4, 5 and 6 year olds will also be accepted. The program site is the Shawwassee School and the sessions begin in late June and continue through mid-August. The fee is \$25 per child. This includes a T-shirt and graduation certificate. Register early, space is limited.

CAMP RAINBOW — Camp Rainbow is a summer day camp for all mentally and physically impaired individuals. The program operates from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday and offers a wide variety of recreation activities. Daily activities will incorporate socialization skills, gross and fine motor coordination and self awareness. Additional activities will include swimming, field trips and overnight camping during specific sessions. The first session will begin July 18 and take place at Oakland Community College, Orchard Ridge Campus. The camper registration fee is \$35 per session.

AMUSEMENT PARK TICKETS — In cooperation with the Michigan Recreation and Park Association, Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department is offering a variety of fun tickets at a savings. Tickets are on sale at the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation office and the City of Farmington's finance department. Ticket discounts include: Bob-Lo, Cedar Point, Darian Lake, Geauga Lake, Great America, King's Island, Detroit Zoo, Michigan State Fair, Pro Football Hall of Fame, Seaworld, Arne's Funland, Canada's Wonderland and Cross Road Village.

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