

Pet iguana takes a walk

By Tom Baer
staff writer

The police are asked to be extra

watchful. Little Iggy has taken a walk. Iggy is an unusual household pet — a greenish, lizard-like iguana measuring about five feet from his nose to the end

of his tail and standing about 10 inches high at the shoulder.

Iggy, for seven years the pet of Steve Yauch, pushed out the screen of a window of Yauch's house in the Grand River-Middlebelt area of Farmington Hills.

"Did you ever try calling the police to report a lost iguana?" asked Betty Yauch, Steve's mother. "They must have thought I was drunk or crazy."

"They just laughed and told me not to worry. They said that everybody calls them about everything."

Iggy, who was just six-inches long when he was bought at a Topps Discount Store, broke out sometime on the night of July 24. Betty Yauch searched the area and even placed a "lost iguana" ad in a local newspaper. No luck.

"We searched and searched, but they blend right in," she said.

When Iggy escaped, Steve and his wife, Judy, were in Mt. Pleasant where Steve was finishing up his last semester at Central Michigan University. He came home last week with a degree in biology.

SAID BETTY Yauch, "Iguanas are really pretty harmless, but they're eas-

ily harmed. I really don't believe we'll ever see him again. If a dog or raccoon doesn't get him, he'll live to the first frost."

Iggy's big defense mechanism is his tail. "They whip it around and hit you with it," Betty Yauch said. "It can leave a small welt."

Iggy used to eat dog food that Steve forked into his mouth. The animal lived first in the family home on Oakland in Farmington, then in Steve's house on Dresden in Farmington Hills.

For a time, Iggy lived in CMU's married student housing with Steve and Judy. He had a room all to himself.

"That's when he really started growing," Betty Yauch said. "Their growth depends so much on their environment. If he has the room to grow, he will."

The entire Yauch family misses its pet.

"They do have a personality," said Betty Yauch. "They do listen. When Steve left for college, I figured it'd be a good time to move Iggy from the front room to a back bedroom."

"Well, I did and he almost died. I guess, in addition to missing Steve, he missed all the activity of the living room. We moved him back and he picked up right away."

More school sports planned

Continued from Page 1

The proposal was studied and supported by the Middle School Athletic Council's board of control.

"If there's going to be a change, it should be made in time to put the program in place for the coming year," said Lew Shulman, superintendent.

MEMBERS AGREED THAT, if the board passes the proposal at the next meeting, there will still be time to implement it for the coming school year.

"Physical activity in these years is

extremely important, getting the students in the habit of exercising," Makinson said. "My idea of an athletic program in middle schools is one that is broad enough to reach all students and not just the gifted."

Teachers who attended the meeting assured the board that the emphasis behind adding the new activities would be to increase the student's school participation, not only in sports but in academics as well. They said it would improve the student's sense of belonging to the school.



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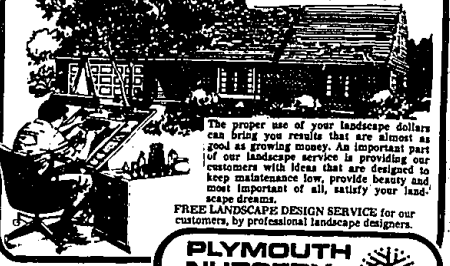
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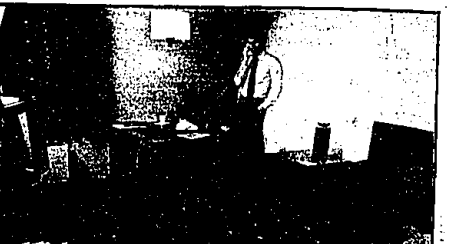
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