

# Entertainment

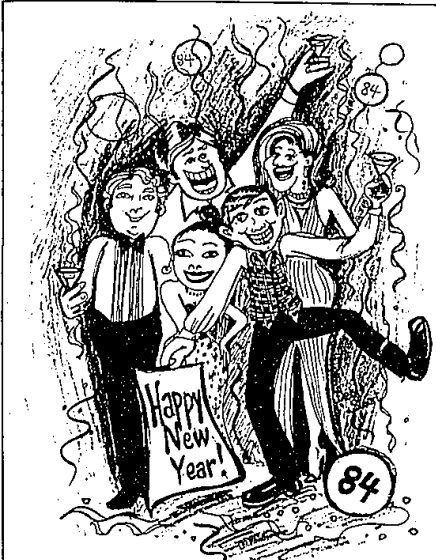
Ethel Simmons editor/644-1100

Thursday, December 29, 1983 O&amp;E

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## Whistling, singing and all that jazz



### '84 reservations? Better make 'em now

New Year's Eve means food, fun, parties and even plays. Here's a sampling of events around the metro area with which to ring in 1984.

- HOT ICE**  
The Top 40 dance band Hot Ice performs from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. through Saturday, New Year's Eve, at Hurley's lounge in the Northfield Hilton in Troy. There's dancing on a state-of-the-art dance floor. New Year's parties at the Northfield Hilton include one in the Grand Ballroom, featuring dinner, dancing, show with Paul Locrichio, at \$99 per couple, and the one in Hurley's at \$50 per couple.
- SHERATON-SOUTHFIELD**  
The first annual Honey Radio (All Oldies) Party will be held New Year's Eve in the Grand Ballroom at the Sheraton-Southfield Hotel in Southfield. Admission is \$19.95 per couple, or \$11 per person. For more information call 557-4800, Ext. 2281 or 2280. There also will be a New Year's Eve party in Yesterday's Lounge at \$12.50 per person. For tickets call 557-4800, Ext. 2281.
- SUMMER NIGHTS**  
The Summer Nights Parties at the Troy Hilton return for New Year's Eve entertainment with Hugh Borge and the Trinidad Tripoli Steel Band in the Grand Ballroom. Tickets are \$12.50 per person. There will be live entertainment with the band Silk in Fanny's Lounge on New Year's Eve. Tickets are \$15 per person. The Haymarket restaurant is offering its Fresh Flown Fish Feast, a seafood buffet, on New Year's Eve, plus live entertainment with the Jim Dixon Quartet and dancing, and a champagne toast at midnight, for \$29.95 per person. For further information call 583-9000.

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A jazz whistler? Yes, indeed. There is such a thing, and I know because I heard one recently in the unlikelyst of places.

It was a snowy, cold night at Western High School in Walled Lake when I saw a show called "Jazz Night at Western." It featured jazz whistler and Concord Records recording ace Ron McCroby, who blew his brains out with the natural instrument he refers to as the "puccolo."

No slouch as a whistler, McCroby improvises on the obligatory "Whistle While You Work" as well as on more serious jazz tunes like Clifford Brown's "Joy Spring." The highlight of the serendipitous experience that night was the performances by the Walled Lake Westerners, a student pop-show group, and Vocal Point, a jazz vocal sextet.

Organized and led by Ron DeRoo, a vocal music instructor at Rochester's Oakland University, Vocal Point has drawn on the vocal jazz traditions of the Four Freshmen, the Swingle Singers, Singers Unlimited and the Manhattan Transfer to develop their own fastidious harmonies.

When Vocal Point teamed with Ron McCroby and his whistle, there was some real jazz fun as McCroby's puccolo soloed over, under and through the vocal harmonies and counterpoint. Vocal Point should be heard more often.

Across Oakland County at Nicky's in Troy, The Loving Cup, a pop group that's seemingly been around for ever, is in the middle of a three-month engagement.

Although various restaurants have tried to make a go of it on the first floor of the Top Troy Building at I-75 and Big Beaver Road, Nicky's, a new, chic restaurant and lounge, seems to have hit on the right combination.

Not the least of the reasons for Nicky's being packed every night are a careful menu, an expanded lounge area and The Loving Cup.

### on music James Windell

FRONTED BY attractive vocalist Marlene Hill, the group does Top-40 covers with an emphasis on dancing and the current pop songs that people want to hear these days.

On a recent weekend evening, Hill sang a set that included songs by Barbara Streisand, Lionel Richie and Irene Cara's "Flashdance... What a Feeling."

Since the group started in 1971, when Marlene Hill and keyboard player Danny Jordan got married, Loving Cup has established a loyal audience and a local circuit that includes some of the better clubs.

"I like to keep up with the new songs," Hill said between sets at Nicky's, "but sometimes I feel like Barbara Streisand has supported me for years."

Indicating that she likes to gear her material on any given night to the crowd, she's found that at Nicky's the people like to dance and that it's more an uptempo crowd.

And that leads to the one complaint Hill has about Nicky's: "I usually sit at the bar between sets to talk to people," she said. "But here I can't because it's too crowded."

The Loving Cup remains at Nicky's (362-1282) through Jan. 28.

ANOTHER SINGER who sings Barbara Streisand material along with songs by just about

every other current vocalist is young Michele Goulet, the blonde lead vocalist of Colours.

Providing the entertainment at Detroit's London Chop House, Michele Goulet and Colours, led by vocalist, composer and talent agency head Mel Ball, is making the Chop House one of the warmest nightspots around.

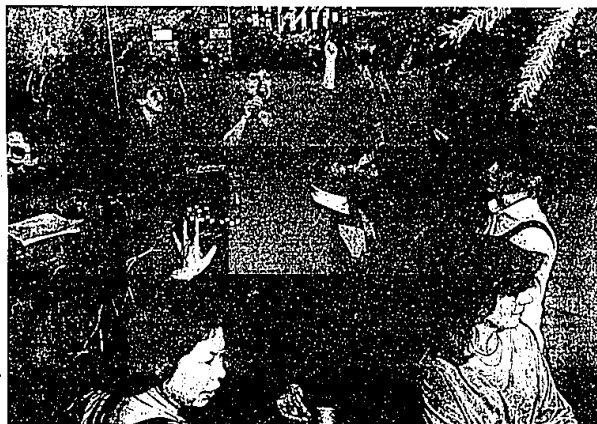
Adding to the warmth of the downtown Detroit restaurant are the bright Christmas lights that decorate the ceiling. Not to worry, though, owners Lanie Pincus said, those lights won't come down until about Valentine's Day, when everyone has negotiated the worst part of the winter blues.

When Mrs. Pincus and her husband, Max, took over the longtime eatery a few months ago, they knew that people want a chance to combine good eating with dancing and the Pincuses wanted Mel Ball and the Colours.

Watching and listening to Colours perform at the London Chop House, it's easy to see why the group is such a hit. Thanks to the leadership of Ball, the group is a musically light quintet and Goulet is one of the most mature and self-possessed young singers around.

Her enthusiasm is contagious. She strums an imaginary guitar, strikes piano keys in the air and bounces to the music when she's not singing.

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Marlene Hill (center, with mike, and photo at right), on stage with The Loving Cup at Nicky's, says she keeps up with the new songs, "but sometimes I feel like Barbara

Streisand has supported me for years." The Loving Cup continues at the Troy nightspot through Jan. 28.



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D.C. CAB R	SILKWOOD R	

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