

Entertainment

Ethel Simmons editor/644-1100



Thursday, May 8, 1986 O&E

(O)SC

upcoming things to do

- 'GOLDEN POND'**
Birmingham Village Players will present "On Golden Pond" by Ernest Thompson at 8:30 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, May 16-17 and 23-24, and 2 p.m. Sunday, May 18. Husband-and-wife team of Dike and Dore Dweilley will play the lead roles of Norman and Ethel Thayer. Tickets at \$5 for adults, \$4 for students are available at the door. For reservations call 644-2076 anytime.
- DJ ROAST**
Comic Mike Binder, who is originally from Birmingham, will be the emcee when Detroit's morning disc jockeys gather to roast one of their own - Jim Harper of 99 Pop Radio WDTX - Thursday, May 15, at Roma's of Bloomfield in Bloomfield Township. All proceeds from the event will go to the Arthritis Foundation. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., a fantasy auction will begin at 8:30 and the roast at 9 p.m. For tickets at \$50, call 561-9096.
- MUSICAL 'OLIVER'**
Cori Carrier of Rochester will play the lead female role of Nancy in the Grosse Pointe Children's Theatre production of the musical hit "Oliver" at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Saturday, May 10; 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 16; and 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 17, at the William Fries Auditorium at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial. Carrier is a theater major at Oakland University who recently appeared in the Actors Alliance production of "Fantasticks." For tickets at \$4.75 for adults, \$3.50 for students and senior citizens, call 885-6210.
- SHOEBEE DOO**
The ShooBee Show starring bassist, vocalist and comedian ShooBee Doo is featured at 9:30 p.m. Wednesdays-Saturdays through May at the Midtown Cafe in Birmingham. The show includes music from the album "Good to Go with the Real ShooBee Doo," recorded live at the Montreux-Detroit Jazz Festival; Broadway show tunes and selection from the Attie Theatre production of the musical "1940s Radio Hour." For further information, call 642-1133.
- WINS AWARD**
Todd Levin of Farmington Hills has won a BMI Awards to Students Composer prize for "Aqua Vitae," for marimba and 17 musicians. The piece was commissioned by the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor in memory of percussionist/faculty member Charles Owen. It will premiere at the university in November. BMI Awards to Student Composers will be presented Wednesday, May 14, at the St. Regis Hotel in New York City. Levin is finishing his master's at the
- MAGIC SHOW**
David Copperfield will present six performances of "The Magic of David Copperfield" Friday-Sunday, May 9-11, at the Fisher Theatre in Detroit. The 90-minute show is filled with highly choreographed illusions, set to contemporary/popular music, and includes audience participation. Tickets range from \$15.50 to \$21.50. For more information, call 423-6666.
- SUMMER FESTIVAL**
Tickets to all performances at

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Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y.

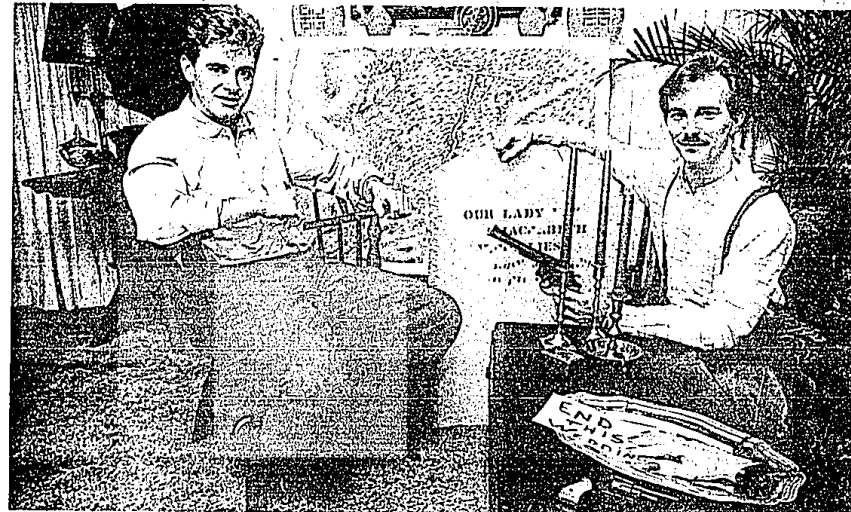
● BENEFIT BALL
"Salute to the Twenties" Benefit Ball will be held from 7-10 p.m. Sunday, May 18, as part of a "Celebrate Seniors Week at Winchester Mall in Rochester. The Big Band sounds of Chet Bogan and vocalist Dixie Bell will be offered. Guests are being invited to "come as you are, or dress as your favorite Twenties star." Tickets at \$3 are available at several locations including the mall office. Proceeds will be donated to the Older Persons Commission for the purchase of mini-buses.

● DOWNTOWN HOEDOWN
The fourth annual Budweiser Downtown Hoedown, said to be the world's largest free celebration of country music, will be held Friday-Sunday, May 9-11, at Hart Plaza in Detroit. Concerts begin Friday with Waylon Jennings as the top attraction. Saturday's schedule includes Tammy Wynette, John Schneider, and Larry Gullin and the Gatlin Brothers. John Conlee, Jamie Fricke, and George Jones and the Jones Boys will perform Sunday. Entertainment runs continually from noon to 11 p.m. each day.

● STAR THEATER
Singers Jerry Vale and Teresa Brewer, with the full Glenn Miller Orchestra, will open the 15th season the week of Tuesday, June 17, at the Star Theatre of Flint at Whitting Auditorium. Other stars booked are Giorgio Tozzi in "South Pacific," the week of July 6; Donald O'Connor and Richard Fredricks in "Show Boat," the week of July 22; the McGuire Sisters, Eddie Fisher and the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, the week of Aug. 5; the Jim Nabors Show, also starring Brenda Lee, the week of Aug. 19, and the Miltz Gaynor Show, the week of Sept. 9. Season tickets are \$65 for all six shows. Single tickets are \$12.50. For more information, call 238-1434.

Avon has ended the season with a Neil Simon musical comedy that is two-thirds bang, one third whimper. The last few scenes survive only by riding the swell of the first ones, which are just splendid.

Karen Elliott-Upchurch and Jeff Upchurch are ideally paired, as I thought back in December of 1984 when she was plain Karen Elliott. They met when she was cast as Sister Rita, he as the accused priest, in the players' production of "The Runner Stumbles," an unsatisfying little drama.



Staff photo

Farmington resident Michel Heald (right) and assistant Ed Postif, who lives in Plymouth, show some of the tools of their trade as organizers of mystery weekends. Curious maps, tombstones, pistols, candles, notes written in blood, and covered hands are among the ghoulish props that may give clues to party guests, who track down an elusive killer.

Whodunit? Mystery weekends give answer

Performances of the Avon Players production of the Neil Simon/Martin Hamlisch musical comedy "They're Playing Our Song" continue through Saturday, May 17, at the Avon Players Playhouse in Avon Township. For ticket information call 656-1130.

By Gay Siegel
special writer

They play words and music people, songwriters, both neurotic, uncertain, vulnerable. We see a little of ourselves in each of them. Karen is a physical actress, thrusting her whole body into each line, without a hint of overstatement or inappropriateness. We are sorry when her character gains success, poise, maturity and an awful hairdo/wig. But she turns a few mediocre songs into real treasures with her clear, strong voice and her expressiveness.

JEFF'S ROLE CALLS for a more subdued rendering, but he too recognizes the importance of movement, of modified burlesque, in theater. He does not go beyond the bounds of what seems natural to him, however. His exasperation, frustration, anger, and love are conveyed beautifully in his face and voice. His "50s-style falsetto singing is a special treat.

Their real troubles start in bed and, strangely enough, so do those with timing and the play in general. The second act just isn't as interest-

Heald and assistant Ed Postif of Plymouth are so taken with this new form of entertainment they conduct a full-time business of writing, producing and managing mystery parties for hotels, corporations and private gatherings that can last three hours or three days.

ing, perhaps because romantic, sexual tension is replaced by real tension. Still, the audience remembers the earlier belly laughs.

Simon fully compensates for plot

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