

# Suburban Life

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## Tagging together

### Bands play, canisters shake for area's marching musicians

Marching band members from the area's three high schools in their brightly colored snappy uniforms, flag bearers, pom pon girls, twirlers and drum majors will be beating the drums throughout the sister cities Friday and Saturday, Oct. 10-11.

The event is "Tag Days," a fall tradition that began in 1973 to support the teens who march and play their instruments for football games, in parades and in competition.

For many it is known as "Tagging Together," because of the parents, the teachers, and the many area merchants who join together early in the school year to give a boost to the teens' musical education.

About 400 teens have already signed up for their shift and know where they will be stationed with their canisters to nudge passersby for a donation. The tag received in turn for that donation is good for admission to one "thank you concert" given at each of the three schools in November.

"Bandarama" is the thank-you concert this year set for 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 6, at Harrison High School.

Curtain time is 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 7, for "Tag Days Concert" at

North Farmington High School. "Bandarama" begins at 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 8, in Farmington High School.

**TAG DAYS ARE** sponsored by the Band and Orchestra Boosters of the three schools and are administered by a Tag Days Committee made up of representatives of each of the three parent clubs.

Part of the Tag Days tradition is putting together a "pep band," more commonly known now as "The Dirty Dozen" made up of four musicians from each of the three schools who work continuously throughout the solicitation hours.

The 12 bandmen are moved from one location to another, generally in a borrowed vehicle large enough to carry both musicians and instruments, to play, to attract attention, and generally beef up business.

The business at hand nets \$12,000-\$13,000 a year, which is divided up between the three schools.

The money is always used for whatever the musicians need that is not funded by the board of education. In the past it has been used to buy uniforms, send the teens to band camps, supplement music libraries,

finance travel expenses to competitions, buy band equipment and give scholarships.

The Tag Day Committee convenes every August to start the fund-raiser rolling, with getting permission from merchants to allow the solicitation in front of their business place; securing the van for "The Dirty Dozen," securing coin counting machines and police protection, making the schedules, getting the word out, and planning the end-of-the-Tag Days party.

**ALMOST 300** area merchants and businessmen can be counted on one way or another to support Tag Days.

They give a spot to the teens for their solicitation, or they provide food or prizes for the Saturday night party when all Tag Days workers and supporters will gather this year at Harrison High.

Teens turn in their canisters, money is counted, and prizes are given to those bringing in the most.

Prizes last year ran from a Red Wings autographed hockey stick to a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond; from a gold locket to a customized haircut.



Marching musicians who might be competing with one another at any other time of the year, join together on "Tag Days." Eric Feller (at left) from Harrison High, Dan Woytowich from Farmington High and Lisa Bagdasarian from

North Farmington meet in front of Dagwood's in Downtown Shopping Center. The delicatessen is one of 300 area businesses that support the high schools' marching bands.

## Child porn

### Graduate paper turns up some shocking findings

By Janice Brunson  
staff writer

**NUDIST MOPPETS** — depict children's activity on swings, trampolines and trapeze, in pin-sharp clarity. Films, super color.

**MODELS BETWEEN 11 and 15** in the Chicago area needed for private collection, pay hourly wage.

These advertisements from an underground catalog confiscated by police are just two examples of an array of materials Helene Heaton of Livonia collected this summer on child pornography.

Heaton was writing a paper as part of her requirements for a master's degree in social work from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor.

The project was more than Heaton bargained for.

"It (the subject) really bothered me. I'm a mother and a grandmother. It's shocking these could be anyone's children. I can't get mentally away from it. It absorbs me. I talk about it constantly."

Among the more sordid materials Heaton gathered was a handbook on "How to Have Sex with Kids," a serious step-by-step discussion on how to do exactly that and how to keep the activity a secret from the child's parents. Heaton said the handbook is legally sold in certain bookstores throughout the country.

So is "Where the Young Ones Are," a complete listing of 378 places in 54 cities to best find willing or unwilling youth for pornographic or other purposes. Another publication is the self-descriptive "Incest: The Game the Whole Family Can Play."

"IT'S SICKENING. You'd think materials of this nature could be legally banned. But my understanding is once printed literature is in circulation, it's legally impossible to pull it from stores," she said.

In fact, such materials enjoy First Amendment protection, according to Inspector Stephen Lokken of the U.S. Postal Service in Detroit. "As long as the materials are written and contain no pictures, it is protected."

Child pornography — photographs, videotapes or films of children being sexually molested — has been illegal since passage of the Protection of Children Against Sexual Exploitation Act in 1977. But Heaton's research has convinced her there is a flourishing black market industry.

This industry, she said, consists of a vast underground networking system between pornographers and pedophiles, the adults, usually male, who sexually prefer children.

Materials are produced both in the United States and abroad, usually in Scandinavia and India, and distribut-

ed illegally by mail or even sold under the counter in otherwise legal bookstores specializing in sexually explicit materials.

**HEATON DESCRIBES** the magnitude of the problem, indicated by customer lists snatched by police from all over the country containing thousands of names. In 1982, for example, a list of 30,000 customers was confiscated in Los Angeles from Catherine Wilson when she was arrested for mailing illegal materials.

The U.S. Postal Service was the arresting agency in Wilson's case, Lokken said. The postal service is one of the major arresting agencies because the mail is the major means of distribution of porn materials.

Lokken said postal inspectors work in close cooperation with all other law enforcement agencies. Copies of Wilson's list of customers were immediately distributed to law agencies throughout the country.

There is no central clearing center anywhere in the country for information of this nature. But the postal department assumes such a role by assigning inspectors in each region the responsibility of disseminating information to other agencies.

Tips and leads are vital for arrests, Lokken said, because the porn industry is underground. The best source for such information is from lists such as Wilson's or from those who are arrested and who are willing to talk in the hope of receiving a lighter sentence.

Sentences, however, are normally stiffer than sentences for like crimes, according to Lokken.

"If someone gets two years for mail fraud, the guy convicted of trafficking in child porno will get 10 years," he said.

But it is merely a dent.

Lokken is unaware of any investigations ever in this area.

But, he said, "The problem is a lot worse than people realize. It's much more magnified than they think. It's in their back yards."

Dar VanderArk, president of the Michigan Coalition Against Pornography, agrees. Commercial child pornography, he said, is essentially eliminated because the 1984 Child Protection Act makes the possession of such materials a federal offense.

But the black market, or underground industry is stronger than ever.

The U.S. Attorney General's Pornography Commission report describes the industry as "a clandestine, underground activity with an emphasis on trading among pedophiles."

Figures in Heaton's paper suggest consumers of child pornography are white, middle-aged, generally unmarried and otherwise law abiding. They are frequently employed in jobs that permit contact with children. And they are collectors.

Even if arrest is imminent, Heaton said, they are reluctant to destroy their collections of pornography. Lokken compares them to drug addicts.

Pornography becomes the major thing in their life. They'll hide collections but rarely destroy them."

**ORGANIZED GROUPS** of pedophiles exist, including the Rene Guyon Society in Los Angeles, with a membership of 5,000; the North American Man/Boy Love Association provides members with catalogs from which they can select children for sexual purposes and pay later by credit card.

Members of The Child Sexuality Circle are unique in that they visit the homes of their victims.

While figures about the underground industry are vague, the trend of the industry is not. There is little

question it is moving toward more bizarre themes than when kiddie porn from Scandinavia first hit American markets in a big way in the early 1970s.

Today, Heaton's paper reported, films, photos and videotapes feature children in bondage, bestiality, sadomasochism and even frightening snuff portrayals in which the victim is allegedly murdered during sexual activity.

Lokken said postal inspectors have never investigated such a case. Those in his office are in agreement that snuff films simulate murder through excellent filming techniques; there is no evidence that they are actual murders.

Still, he said, snuff remains a subject of concern.

Heaton is just as angry at less violent forms of pornography, the so-called acceptable forms like Chester the Molester, a regular cartoon feature in Hustler Magazine depicting a man with children. In a 31-year period, from 1953 to 1984, Heaton said more than 6,000 pictures and illustrations in Hustler, Playboy and Penthouse magazines portrayed children.

**HEATON ALSO** is concerned about suggestive advertising, the type in which nude or partially nude girls advertise men's shirts, sun-tan lotion and perfumes.

The Pornography Commission report found any form of child porn to be "a form of child abuse . . . that may scar the child and is used as a teaching tool by pedophiles."

Heaton is aware that there is no organized group working against pornography from Livonia. She sighs, thinking about the full-time internship she is serving and the classes that remain before she completes her degree.

"I'd rather join a group already organized than organize one myself but if one doesn't exist . . ." She leaves the thought dangling.



Helene Heaton collected materials on child pornography as part of her requirements for a master's degree in social work and came up with a sordid array.