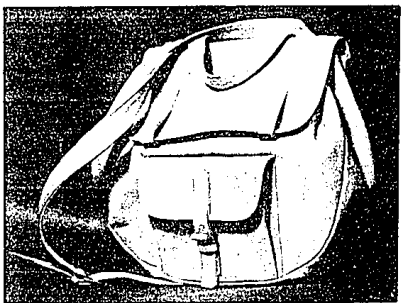


street seen

Charlene Mitchell



Street Seen reporter Charlene Mitchell welcomes comments and suggestions. Write her in care of this newspaper, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia 48150 or call 591-2300 Ext. 313.



STEPHEN CANTRELL/staff photographer

Saddle up

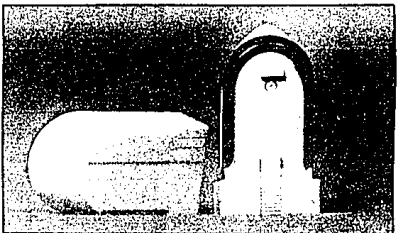
This three-way backpack of naked leather (with denim accents not shown) makes traveling a breeze. Great for toting books, baby diapers or personal belongings, this roomy bag can be worn backpack style, carried as satchel or as a shoulder bag. Convenient pocket holds small items you need to get to in a hurry. Designed by Candida at Quintessence at LaMirage in Southfield. \$300.

Quick as a bunny

Mary, Mary... how does your garden grow? We put it another way, how hand-somely does your water flow? Charming brass outdoor faucet not only call attention to necessary watering chores, but are a delightful addition to outdoor decor. Choose a duck, rabbit, turtle, squirrel, dove or whale — there's something for everybody. \$12.50, Russell Hardware, Birmingham.



STEPHEN CANTRELL/staff photographer



STEPHEN CANTRELL/staff photographer

Smooth sailing

You're looking at the world's smallest travel iron — approximately five inches long but a giant in the workplace. In bright red with convenient snap-on cover, it comes with a dual voltage adaptor plug and removes wrinkles in a flash. Great to carry in your briefcase, purse to keep in your desk drawer. From It's a Gift, Orchard Mall, West Bloomfield. \$16.



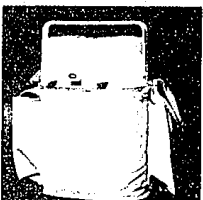
STEPHEN CANTRELL/staff photographer

Gotcha covered

No more ruined clothes. A fabric protector which eases your fine cloth from stains and spills. Repels tough stains like grease and wine. Can be used on fine silks, cashmere, leathers and suede. Great for light-colored handbags. Leaves an invisible protective coating. Can also be effective in lifting light stains. \$17.95 at Quintessence at LaMirage, Southfield.

Picnic time

Cleverly designed picnic thermos pack holds two quart-sized thermoses with push spouts for hot or cold beverages. Slide pockets tote your wine or other goodies. Flap in page is great for storing other essentials. Completely washable. \$38 at It's a Gift, Orchard Mall, West Bloomfield.



STEPHEN CANTRELL/staff photographer

STREET WISE

Root of evil

"Little Shop of Horrors" started as a cheap '60s movie, later became a Broadway musical, which itself was filmed recently. Now the musical comedy version is back on stage at the Birmingham Theatre. The spoof about a man-eating plant will be performed throughout the month of May. Tickets are \$15-24, \$13-17 for preview performances May 1-3. (Birmingham Theatre, 211 S. Woodward, Birmingham; 644-3533.)

TV guide

What does it take to be a successful television producer? Emmy Award-winning producer/director Harvey Oshinsky will provide some answers in a seminar called The Role of the Producer in Broadcast and Cable Television. Presented by Cranbrook P.M., the seminar will run at 7:30 p.m. Mondays, May 4, 11 and 18 and 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday, May 14. Tuition for the seminar is \$300. (Cranbrook P.M.; 645-3635.)

Intimate classics

The American Artist Series Chamber Players, an ensemble of Detroit Symphony Orchestra musicians, will perform at 7 p.m. Sunday at the Kingswood Campus Auditorium. Their selections will include Brahms' Quartet in A Major and Vivaldi's Novak's Piano Trio in D Minor. Tickets are \$9.50. (Kingswood Campus Auditorium, 500 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills; 647-2230 or 477-5699.)

Soft touch

New Age artists Stefan Kukuru-gya and Paul Vornhagen will appear in a series of free concerts at local Harmony House record stores to celebrate the release of the duo's album, "Enlightened Sector." They will perform at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Birmingham Harmony House, 223 W. Maple, at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 17, at Harmony House in Rochester Hills, 1850 S. Rochester Road, and 2 p.m. Saturday, May 30, at Harmony House in Farmington Hills, 30835 Orchard Lake Road.

Weighting game

Your Street Wise writer is on a regular program of lifting weights. Every two weeks he jerks 50 pounds of groceries up two flights of stairs to his apartment. Each time he carefully increases the amount of weight by adding another six-pack of Molson's or a couple of bags of potato chips.

But real weightlifters — some of the best in the country — will gather in Livonia this Saturday and Sunday for the National Weightlifting Federation Championships. They'll be grunting and grunting to grab a spot in this year's Pan-American Games in Indiana. Tickets are \$5, \$3 for students, seniors and children. (Eddie Edgar Arena, 33841 Lyndon, off Farmington Road between Five Mile and Six Mile, Livonia; 425-2852.)

Canoe dig it?

Standing up in the boat is OK if you're cruising on the Ebbie boat, but it could be real trouble in a canoe on the Pine River. The ins and outs of canoeing will be the focus of a special canoe week next week at the Benchmark in Farmington Hills. The special week will include canoeing and kayaking speakers at 7 p.m. each day and a You Can Canoe Day at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 9, at Dodge No. 4 State Park with more than 40 bouts available for test drives on Cass Lake.

Guest speakers will include travel writer Jim DuFresne who will discuss kayaking in Hubbard Bay, Alaska, (May 8) and kayaking in the Boyale (May 7). (The Benchmark, 32715 Grand River, east of Farmington Road, Farmington Hills; 477-8116.)

A Knight to remember

Skiing things

The snow may be gone for good — we think — but skiers can still look ahead to next winter. This Sunday the Metropolitan Detroit Ski Council will host its 10th annual Travel Roundup at the Northfield Hilton in Troy. The event will offer the chance to meet with representatives of travel agencies, ski resorts, transportation companies, lodging firms and various ski-related industries. The roundup will be from noon to 4:30 p.m. (Northfield Hilton, Crooks and 1-75, Troy; 593-1188.)

Elsewhere in this edition of Street Scene, local rocker Steve King sings, "Shout!" as one of those guaranteed crowd pleaser tunes. That oldie but goodie really took off for a new audience when it was performed by Otis Day and the Knights in the film "Animal House." None other than Otis Day himself, with the Knights in tow, will be performing next week in Westland. The occasion is a big toga party scheduled for 8 p.m. Friday, May 8, at the Grande Ballroom. I don't know about you, but it makes this Street Scene writer want to "Shout!" (Grande Ballroom, 38116 Westland; 421-7630.)

Chili reception

Hot-air balloons and hot-as-hades chili will combine for a spicy weekend in Salline this Saturday and Sunday. The occasion is the Eighth Annual Great Chili Cook-off and hot-air balloon race, a fund-raiser for the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan Inc. The sanctioned cook-off (that means, among other things, no fillers such as beans) will draw 80 cooks Saturday. On Sunday the main event will be the more informal "renegade" cook-off, in which just about anything goes into the chili. Among the renegade teams participating will be Street Scene's own crew of chili willies. (Salline Farm Council Grounds, 1-75 at Ext 175; 1-800-482-1455.)

International incidents

Two separate events this weekend will give metro Detroiters an idea of what's going on in the rest of the world. The International Institute of Metropolitan Detroit's annual International Dance Festival will be 7-10 p.m. Sunday at Lakeside Mall in Sterling Heights. Tickets are \$13.50, which includes an ethnic buffet dinner and a chance to view 28 ethnic dance groups.

Meanwhile, the ethnic festivals downtown will kick off Friday through Sunday with the Scandinavian and Indian festivals at Hart Plaza. (Lakeside Mall, M-59, four miles east of Van Dyke, Sterling Heights; 871-8600; Hart Plaza, Jefferson at Woodward; 224-1184.)

For the cycle

More than 700 cyclists will gather in Ann Arbor Sunday for the 1987 Bikeathon. The pedal pushers will have their choice of a 100-, 58-, 28- or 14-mile courses. The bikers are taking pledges to benefit the Ecology Center of Ann Arbor, a nonprofit community organization. There also will be a riders' raffle with such prizes as bicycles and a whitewater raft trip for two. (1987 Bikeathon; 761-3186.)

Got something interesting in the works? Send your information to Richard Lech, Street Wise, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

Bands like their old-time-rocking role

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that couldn't find work. When we started, you had to do real oldies — 'Great Balls of Fire,' 'Rock Around the Clock.' Now, you can do anything," Speer said.

Add King: "A lot of top 40 bands went in for oldies because the demand was there," says King. "Now they're back to the top 40."

There's been a return to the kind of good time rock you could sing in your car — without having to pause for synthesizer, automatic drum or orchestral breaks.

For both men, the music's simplicity is its strength. "The songs are very lyric-oriented, they seem to tell a story," King said. "That's probably why they fit in the movies so well."

THE RELATIONSHIP between classic rock and modern cinema has been mutually beneficial. From "American Graffiti" to "The Big Chill," the movies have been pumping out the oldies like nobody's business. Frequently, hit soundtracks spawn hit movies.

Last year's hit film "Stand By Me" attracted viewers with a top-10 title song. Never mind that the record itself is older than Jon Bon Jovi, most of the Beatles and all three Beastie Boys.

Speer knows all about cinematic appeal. "We have a song we're trying to place in this movie that's being made about John DeLorean," he said.

Likewise, King is looking for "that one song" that will elevate his band from imitator to equal. "Look at Huey Lewis and the News, look at how they started out," said King, referring to the reigning pop

star whose modified retro-rock had just translated into jam-packed Detroit concerts.

BOTH MEN have been close enough to rock celebrity to taste it.

"I went to school with Chris Campbell (Bob Seger's longtime bass player)," said Speer, who once appeared on stage with Seger.

Both have also backed a who's who of '50s and '60s rock stars.

King, though, termed the results disappointing. "Bleeky Nelson was cool, but a lot of them were just going through the motions," he said. "At this point, a lot of them are just in it for the money."

Speer, who lists some of rock's founding fathers among his acquaintances, is somewhat kinder in his assessments.

"Take somebody like Bo Diddley," he said. "I don't want to make it sound like he's bitter, but here's a guy who never had a No. 1 hit. And how many people have had No. 1 hits by using his music?"

Both men have made a comfortable living recycling others' hits — King just returned from a corporate gig in the Bahamas. Speer has traveled as far west as Las Vegas for club dates.

But neither has given up on the dream of one day hearing his own music on the radio.

Whether stardom comes or goes, neither is likely to stray far from his rock 'n' roll roots.

"It's the kind of music I like," King said. "It's good, solid music. It's stuff that stood the test of time."

Add Speer: "People get up, they dance, they shout. That's rock 'n' roll."



Mountain bikes built for rough terrain

Continued from Page 2

"But we always get permission first when we're going somewhere we haven't been before. People are usually very receptive. We've haven't had a complaint yet. When people realize you're on a trip they usually try to help out as much as they can. I've camped in churchyards,

people's back yards, even cemeteries. I've been offered dinner, and one time a preacher even gave me the keys to his house while he went into town."

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has recently launched an all-out effort to stop the devastation of state park, state recreation and wildlife/game area

lands by illegal use of off-road vehicles. Stone doesn't believe mountain bikes are a part of this problem.

"WE DON'T HAVE enough power to tear up the ground. Remember, we're only riding bicycles. Plus, we move more than when you ride a 10-speed. If we do, and it hardens, we're the ones who have to ride back over it later, and that's no fun at all. The last thing we want to do is tear up the ground. And like I said, we always ask permission before we ride somewhere we haven't been before."

Stone is also an advocate of safety. He suggests riders always wear a helmet and some type of eye protection. He also suggests wearing gloves and bringing along a lot of bug spray.

"Bugs are the worst hazard of all. They'll kill you," said Stone. "Another thing Stone likes about the mountain bike is the physical workout he gets when riding."

"Cycling in general is good for your health, especially your legs," said Stone. "But with the mountain bikes it's also really good for your

upper body strength. You're in an upright position to begin with. You're riding over different terrain so you're always pulling your front tire up over something. You're doing a lot more turning and just generally using your upper body a lot more than when you ride a 10-speed."

Mountain bikes first became popular on the West Coast in the early 1970s. At that time they were more adapted to beach riding and were referred to as "beach cruisers."

Over the years new techniques have been developed and refinements have been made until today's elaborate brand of mountain cycle evolved.

Today's mountain cycle offers the riders an opportunity to get the exercise they want from the 10-speed but gives riders the option of a variety of places to ride.

When riding off-road, the cyclist doesn't constantly have to be on the watch for motorists and pedestrians. They have a chance to explore nature and get away from the fast pace of life in the city.



DAN DEAN/staff photographer

Howard Stone rides his mountain bike across the crest of a hill near his Keego Harbor shop.