

Area photographer sweeps the field in state competition

By Sherri Lynn Goorke
special writer

The sun blazed through the window and flashed its smile on some 20 Lycol-fresh urinals all in a row.

A Farmington photographer, Joseph Derocher, on a break during a photo competition at Lawrence Institute of Technology in Southfield was stunned by the brilliance of the consecutive white urinals.

"I knew instantly that there was a picture here," Derocher said, who works at Focal Point Studio of Photography in downtown Farmington.

"Ingenuity" features Derocher's 3-year-old son, Danny, baring his behind as he stands on an overturned wastebasket to reach the adult-sized urinal. It took the Kodak Gallery Award and a blue ribbon at the Professional Photographers of Michigan last month.

It was one of four Derocher prints that swept the awards at the state convention and print competition at the Grand Traverse Resort in Traverse City.

In all, Derocher walked away with six of the eight awards of achievement given, five trophies, two blue ribbons, two yellow ribbons, top score for a single print and hopes for tomorrow.

HIS AWARDS of achievement were:

- Best of Category
- The Michigan Award of Excellence for his placement as the second highest overall scorer.
- The Michigan First-Time Entry Award for the highest total score among first-time state entrants.
- The Raw Print/Pierce Award for his print, "Ingenuity." This award recognizes the quintessence of a photograph.
- The Kodak Gallery Award for

"Ingenuity" and the chance to have the print included in the Kodak presentation at Epcot Center in Florida.

• The Michigan Courts of Honor for his print, "Homeward Bound," a portrayal of a young Civil War soldier whose leg has been amputated.

"Homeward Bound" netted the highest single score of 92 on a 100-point scale. The other three prints and their final scores were: "Ingenuity," 87, a blue ribbon; "501 Blues," 74, a yellow ribbon; and "Sposabella" (Italian for a beautiful bride, a yellow ribbon).

ALTHOUGH "501 BLUES," a portrait of a denim-clad teenage girl leaning against a wall, only scored a yellow ribbon, it was Derocher's favorite print.

"One bad thing about competition is that you can never tell what will happen," he said.

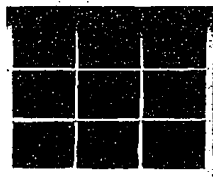
"Homeward Bound," "Ingenuity" and "501 Blues" earned higher scores in previous local print competitions.

Despite the lower scores at the state competition, Derocher said he could not help but be pleased with his success. "It was the satisfaction of doing so well at my first state competition," he said.

Derocher plans to send "Homeward Bound," "Ingenuity," "501 Blues" and possibly a new print to the Professional Photographers of America competition in June.

Derocher, 29, has been a photographer for eight years. He has been on the staff of Focal Point Studio of Photography for seven years.

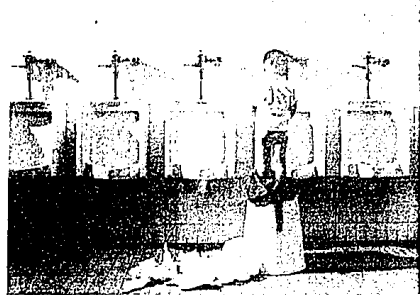
A new Focal Point studio is under construction, at 33431 Grand River, across Farmington Road from its current location. The new building will open late this summer. It will display prints by Derocher and its other award-winning photographer, Mike Ryan.



501 BLUES



HOMEWARD BOUND



INGENUITY



SPOSABELLA

Audiologist urges 'Remove the stigma from hearing aids'

More than one in every four people over 65 has a hearing disorder. Yet more people have hearing losses than hearing aids, said Gerald Hug, audiologist on staff of the Henry Ford Hospital Medical Center in West Bloomfield.

According to the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, the number of people with hearing impairments will increase at a faster rate than the total U.S. population between 1980 and 2050, as a direct result of the aging of the population. The association has set aside

the entire month of May to alert people about communication and hearing disorders.

"I think the day is near when people will consider wearing a hearing aid every bit as normal as wearing eyeglasses," said Hug. "The major reason why people resist this help seems to be that it is considered a sign of aging. And people don't seem to want to admit that they are growing old."

He noted that President Reagan's use of a hearing aid has helped dispel the myth that connects hear-

ing loss and aging in a negative way, noting that the president is said to have two different types. That's because the small one he uses for "on-camera" appearances lacks some of the efficiency of the larger ones.

A hearing aid isn't for everyone, Hug said. "I always ask those whom it could help what they think is most important — better hearing or good looks. They make the choice," said Hug.

THERE ARE a variety of other assistive devices in addition to the hearing aid that can help those with a hearing loss. They include phone and TV amplifiers, different tones on doorbells and alarm clocks.

"If you have a specific problem, there's probably a technology out there that will help you," said Hug.

Often the person with a hearing loss procrastinates about getting help because he or she simply doesn't know who to call, or where to start. According to Hug, the best place to start is by making an appointment with a medical doctor who is a specialist in disorders of the ear, nose and throat, or with the family physician. The physician would rule out any problem that might need surgical or medical attention.

At Henry Ford Medical Center, the ENT exam and the hearing test,

administered by the audiologist, can be scheduled simultaneously.

If a hearing aid is recommended, the person would return for a hearing aid evaluation in about 60-90 minutes and then for the orientation on how to use the device. A conformity evaluation at a later date determines that everything is working well, and yearly checks after this

are recommended.

"You have to have a positive attitude about wearing a hearing aid," said Hug. "I don't like to see a person's hearing aid sitting in a drawer. Better to use the money to pay the hearing bill."

Hearing loss can increase the sense of isolation and helplessness felt by many older Americans. Fam-

ily and friends can help prevent this by doing some very simple things: speaking clearly, in a normal voice at a normal rate, facing the hearing-impaired person, and keeping the background noise at a minimum.

For information on Henry Ford Medical Center-West Bloomfield services to help those with a hearing loss, call Hug, 661-4100, Ext. 229.

No diet program for overeaters told in 2-day workshop

Geneen Roth, author of "Breaking Free," will be in Farmington Hills Friday and Saturday, June 19-20, to conduct a two-day workshop called "Breaking Free From Compulsive Eating." The workshop begins at 7 p.m. and continues throughout Saturday in Quality Inn, 31525 12 Mile.

"After years of dieting, it finally occurred to me that food wasn't the problem," Roth said. His first book was called "Feeding the Hungry Heart."

"The reason my diets always failed is that I focused on food, not on why I always gained back what I lost."

Breaking Free is a how-to program that puts overeaters in touch with the emotions that send them to seek out food. The workshops show

the participants how to see eating as a symptom of the problem, not the problem itself.

Roth will show how to trace the roots of food obsessions, then tell how to find other sources of nourishment.

"Breaking Free moves one from being the victim of cravings they don't understand to acting with power and choices," she said. "Breaking Free helps participants to recognize physical hunger, eat without distractions and know when to stop; how to throw away food; and what to do about bathroom scales, exercise, refrigerators and mirrors," she said.

The workshops given in the metro area are sponsored by Positive Self. Reservation information is given by calling Sally Palasin at Positive Self, 358-1870.

new voices

MR. AND MRS. STEVEN B. ROBY announce the birth of their daughter, Natalie Candace, born April 23. The infant's father has a law office in Farmington Hills.

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