

3-D invasion

3-D used to be watching a lousy horror movie with cheap plastic glasses, both which were destined to give you a splitting headache. But today holograms offer a sophisticated, laser-powered approach to creating the illusion of depth. For a look at how one Southfield firm is tapping this new dimension in marketing, turn to Page 5D.

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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Walking in air

Stuntwoman wings it just for the thrill of it

By Wayne Poal
staff writer

It was a typical day for Lori Lynn Ross, just hanging around the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Long Beach, Calif. — by her fingertips.

The former Southfield resident scaled her way along the 17-story building. Then, in a quick, athletic move, she swooped off a fifth-floor ledge and grasped a nearby balcony with a tiny hand.

Ross, who lists herself as 4 feet 11½ inches and 98 pounds, is one of Hollywood's newest stuntwomen. The 25-year-old lists more than a half-dozen movies and television shows among her credits.

The Long Beach stunt was used in an episode of the "Knight Rider" television series, where she doubled for former Olympic gymnast Julianne McNamara. Moviegoers caught a glimpse of Ross in "Karate Kid II."

THIS DAY, she's at Willow Run Airport getting ready for a weekend air show where she'll perform acrobatics on the wings of a custom biplane.

The wind blows strong through her curly brown hair.



Ross, a former Southfield resident, now makes her living doing stunts in Hollywood.

"I hope we have a little better weather this weekend," Ross says. "I'm working on an aerial headstand, something I've never done before. I want to give the Michigan people something special to remember."

Michigan holds a special place in Ross' own memories.

Though born in California, Ross grew up in Southfield. She played basketball, softball and was a cheerleader at the former Lederle Junior High (now Brace-Lederle).

"I was a pretty active kid in school," she said.

THEN THERE were those summertime trips to her grandmother's house near Fenton.

"A girlfriend and I used to go motorcycle riding in the fields out near the house. The big thing was to beat my brother and the other guys to the lake, even if it meant taking a shortcut through a farmer's field," she said.

"I never will forget the time we accidentally took out a whole row of corn. We sure got out of there in a hurry."

Moving back to California with her family was at first a setback but actually aided her transition from fun-loving youngster to professional stuntwoman.

"It was a real downer to move. I was in the 10th grade and had just been made a cheerleader," she recalled. "My brother was a springboard diver. So to give me something to do he got me to work out with him."

EVENTUALLY, Ross tried out for the high school diving team. And for probably the last time in her life, she was scared.

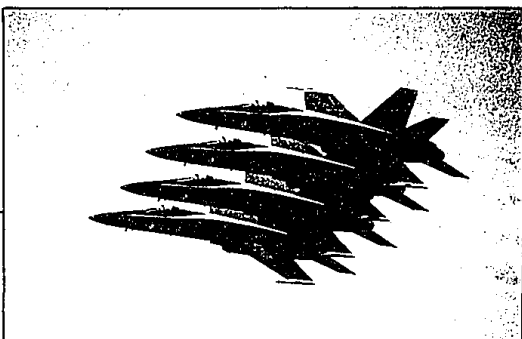
"The first day I tried the three-meter board, I was so scared the coach had to hold my hand all the way up," she said. "But I wasn't scared for long."

She continued diving during her college years at Cal State-Northridge, while earning a teaching degree.

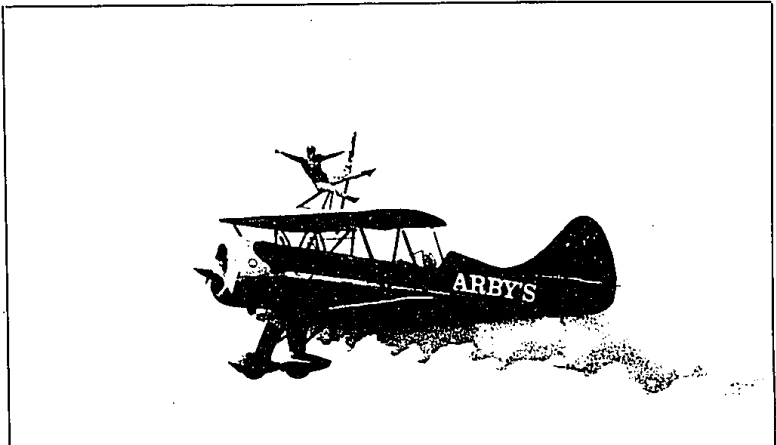
Ross put her teaching career on hold to join a professional diving team, the first step toward her current career.

"The most memorable stunt I think I've ever done was a fire dive,"

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The famed U.S. Navy Blue Angels were the stars of the recent Willow Run Air Show. The precision flight team — shown here in a Navy file photo — made its only Michigan appearance of the year during the Wayne County-sponsored show. For more on the Blue Angels, turn to Page 4D.



photos by ART EMANUELE/staff photographer

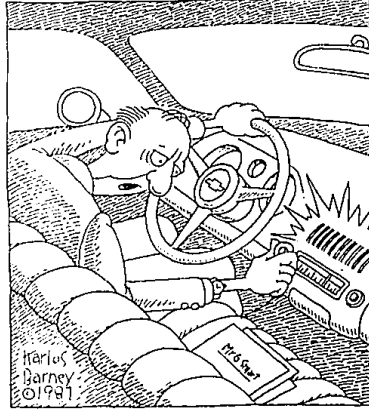
Stuntwoman Lori Lynn Ross flies the friendly skies her own way during the Willow Run show.



Modern propeller-driven aircraft are sleek but can not compare with the Blue Angels' supersonic FA-18 Hornets.

R. U. Syrius

Karlos Barney



"Traffic Copter reports that a green 1986 Chevrolet driven by George Smart is about to be involved in a fiery roll-over crash. Now back to more music..."

Cruisin' requires long-range planning

By Iris Jones
staff writer

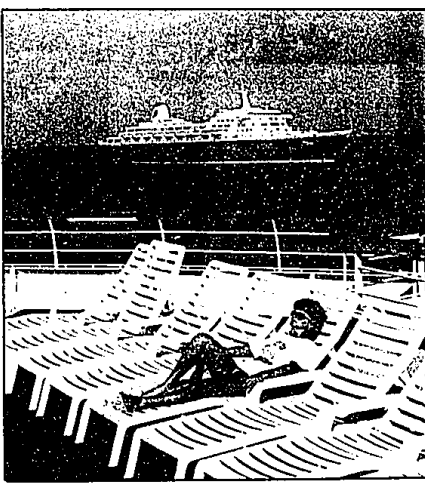
We're a group of high school seniors who want to take a cruise as our class trip. Can we find a cruise we can afford for Easter week of 1988?

S.H.,
Farmington Hills

If you mean a large group looking for group rates, you may be too late for Easter 1988. If you have a small group that can be booked independently at regular rates, you may have a chance.

Some school districts take spring break at Easter, some in February or March. Either way, it is the busy season. The rule seems to be: Start planning your senior trip before you start your senior year!

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OTHER STREETS

There are lots of opportunity to relax on board ship.

Photo by MICKY JONES