

See Sally flirt

Times change but flirting lives on. And like everything else, there are rules to follow in this dating ritual. Learn what the experts say, and how the participants play, on Page 6D. For this week's music lesson, see how See Dick Run goes to the top of its musical class on Page 3D.

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Playing the market



Shoppers can feast on gifts that are sold at R. Hirt Jr. Co., which is on Market Street at Detroit's Eastern Market.

CAMILLE MCCOY/staff photographer

Some gift ideas are easier to swallow

By Sharon Dargay
staff writer

Oh, how nice.
A glow-in-the-dark crocheted toilet paper cover.
And I was afraid I'd get another coffee mug.
And what's this? A handkerchief lettuce tumbler?
Just what I wanted for Christmas.
I love it. Really, I do.
And this fossilized fish sculpture, I'm... I'm speechless.
Thanks. No, really, thanks.

If someone on your Christmas shopping list has everything, needs nothing and always returns your gifts, cheer up and think food. A basket of chocolates or a chopping board of gourmet cheese may not be as personal as a monogrammed sweater or as romantic as a per-

fume, but food gifts have several advantages over other presents:

- They aren't returnable.
- One size fits all.
- No assembly instructions are included.

"I think baskets are great. You of-

ten get things as gifts that you don't like. If there's something you don't like (in a food basket) you can give it away."

THAT'S JEAN Schtokal, a Dearborn attorney who gives food bas-

kets as gifts to family members, tailoring contents to the personality of each recipient. She shops for items in Detroit's Eastern Market, concentrating her efforts at R. Hirt Jr. Co., a store specializing in do-it-yourself basketmaking.

"I was here on Saturday morning — you couldn't get through here it was so crowded — doing most of my shopping," she said, moving unhampered through the deserted store early one Monday morning. "There were a few things I forgot."

This year she added 12 secretaries to her Christmas gift list and bought a dozen dainty baskets and chocolates.

"I don't know the secretaries too well, so I thought I'd go with chocolates. It all depends on the people you give them to."

When she compiles food gifts, Schtokal searches for containers the recipient can reuse, choosing natural rather than holiday colors. Baskets for the law firm's secretaries are small enough for a desktop and could be used as pencil holder or planter after the sweets are gone.

She advises basketmakers to "go for a variety unless you really know the person well and know they absolutely love nuts," or some other single food item. She pointed out that food baskets also closely capture the spirit of Christmas gift-giving by en-

Breezing through market al fresco

By Sharon Dargay
staff writer

Farmer's market and wintertime?

The two go together like snowpeas in a pod. You may not think of heading for Detroit's Eastern Market when the furies begin swirl — the open-air shopping can be bracing — but the crowds thin out during winter, poinsettias bloom along indoor vending stalls and apple cider samples are hot and spicy. Who shops Detroit's Eastern Market in December?

• People who prefer a bustling old-world atmosphere to the corner gas station lot for their Christmas-tree buying.

• Bargain-hunting cooks who load their wheeled carts with winter vegetables and fresh meats.

• Youngsters who "ooh" and "ah" at turrel rabbits and kittens for sale as they cling to mom or dad's pant leg.

(You'll also find year-round farmer's markets in Royal Oak and Ann Arbor. The Royal Oak facility is open from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays. For the Ann Arbor market, open 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sat-

urdays, take I-275 to M-14 west to the Main street exit. Follow Main to Katherine and turn left one block to Detroit street.)

Winter market shoppers sip coffee, munch doughnuts and browse stalls offering homemade crafts, breads, eggs, fresh fir wreaths, flea market oddities, apples, vegetables, bouquets of dried herbs and fragrant flowers.

The shopping is alfresco. But if the thought of open-air shopping makes you shiver, consider the Eastern Market's two in-

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R.U. Syrius



"That's another ten bucks right out the window."

Suite solutions for salesmen

By Iris Sanderson Jones
special writer

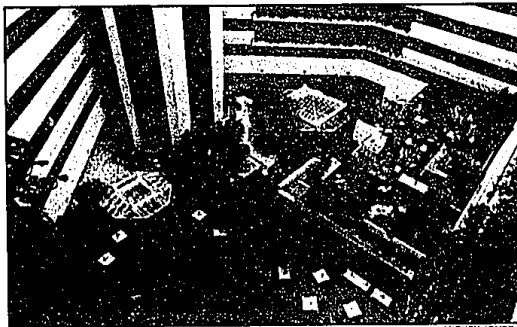
Q: My new job is good news, bad news. I'm the first woman promoted to management in my company, big raise, good career possibilities. But I must choose hotels for next year's sales meetings and learn how to work with salesmen on both a business and social level. I don't want to sit on the edge of a bed in a hotel room and swap jokes. Help, please!

M.D.,
Westland

Start by exploring the suite hotels now found in most cities across the country. Your accommodations will not be a hotel room but a two-room suite that separates bedroom from lounge, and there are plenty of good spaces for both meetings and social gatherings.

The idea of suite hotels began several years ago when a man called Robert Wooley built an apartment building in Phoenix, Ariz., but couldn't fill it. He converted it into an apartment hotel in 1969, gathered a band of loyal followers and eventually added some extras: parties every night, fresh fruit and doughnuts every morning.

It was such a popular idea that he created Granada Hotels, which became Granada Royale. Holiday Inns



MICKEY JONES

Quest Quarters in Troy is one of the new hotels that is finding a suite spot for travelers.

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