

street seen

Charlene Mitchell



Street Seen, reporter Charlene Mitchell is always looking for the unusual and the unique. She welcomes comments and suggestions from readers. Write her in care of this newspaper, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, or call 591-2300, Ext. 313.



On the cutting edge

This may be a bit fancy for breakfast on the run, but what a beautiful table you'll set with the realistic looking carved wood crosshairs that are actually butter knives. When not in use, the knife is cleverly tucked away. \$28. Gorman's Inner Circle, Southfield.

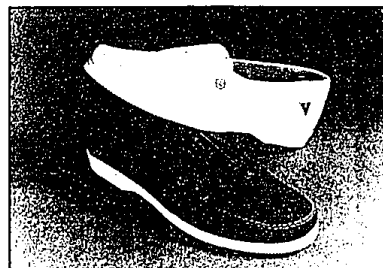
Easy style sit-ups

Whether it's you or someone you need to buy a gift for with a back problem, anyone with a back problem will appreciate this comfy adjustable back cushion. A hand strap on the back makes it easy to slip over a straight back chair or car seat, or just prop it up behind on a sofa, airplane or wherever you are. Light enough to travel with. A variety of colors available. \$29.95. Warren Drug Store, Farmington Hills.



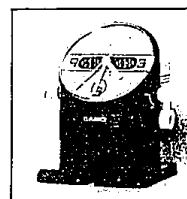
Slip 'n' slide

A great item for a young child. The large wooden beads move up, down and around the abstract plastic coated wire loops. A great aid in teaching a toddler motor skills, left to right motion, colors and counting too. Local pediatricians have them in the offices, say it's a great way to keep a youngster mentally occupied and q-u-i-e-t. Marmel Gifts, Farmington Hills.



Faith and beBroga

From Ballinasloe, Ireland, comes news that Dubarry Shoes Ltd. will introduce its Broga boating shoe line of yachting shoes to the U.S. Handled by MKC Associates of Troy, the shoes initially will be sold through small nautical specialty shops and sportswear boutiques in the area. A hand-tied and hand-sewn boat shoe "that fits like a glove," they are created by craftspeople whose skills have been passed down through three generations. Approximately \$80. The Yachtman, 4503 N. Woodward, Royal Oak.



Hate to get up?

For those of you who know someone who hates waking up in the morning, this little clock will do the trick. It actually stomps its feet and causes a ruckus until you turn it off. Battery operated. Great for all ages — but particularly for kids because it looks so much like the popular robot toys. \$42. Marmel Gifts, Farmington Hills.

STREET WISE

Black Nativity

"Black Nativity" will be presented by the University of Michigan Black Theater Workshop at 8 p.m. Thursday through Sunday, Dec. 17-20, at the Lydia Mendelsohn Theater in Ann Arbor.

The Langston Hughes' acclaimed Christmas musical is best known for its exciting African and gospel musical score. The Nativity is reset in an African village. Byron Saunders, artistic director of the Just Us Theater in Atlanta, Ga., directs the musical.

Rosita Mitchell, winner of Ann Arbor Civic Theater "Best Actress" awards for her roles in "Damn Yankees" and "Chicago" is part of the cast along with Washington Holmes and Steve Dixon.

(Tickets are \$8-\$10 in advance at the Michigan League Box Office and at the door. For advance tickets, call 764-1582 or 764-5350.)

The afternoon movie

"The Old Curiosity Shop," the 1935 British film directed by Thomas Bentley, will be shown Tuesday through Sunday, Dec. 15-20, as part of the Detroit Film Theater's afternoon film series. On Dec. 22, 23, 26, and 27, "A Christmas Carol" will be shown. On Dec. 29-30, "David Copperfield" will be presented.

The unique film series is a branch of the Detroit Film Theater and usually focuses on a particular style or theme.

(Admission is \$1. The Detroit Institute of Arts is at 5200 Woodward. For more information, call 832-2730.)

Teen time

Saturday is teen night at the Center Stage. From 7:30 p.m. to mid-

nights Saturdays, teens will have a chance to dance on one of the largest dance floors in the state. On Friday and Saturday, Dec. 18-19, there will be a special Christmas party. Also, people can take a ride on the Sake One Space Probe, a flight simulator. (The Center Stage is on Ford Road, one block east of I-275. For more information, call 981-5122.)

P.M. Jazz

The Graystone International Jazz Museum will be sponsoring a "Jazz in the Afternoon" concert series 3-6 p.m., starting Sunday, Dec. 20, at the University of Detroit. The concerts will take place in the student lounge. The Phil Laster Quintet will kick off the concert series Dec. 20 with a tribute to Charlie Parker. (The University of Detroit is at 4001 McNichols. Admission is \$5.)

Renovated art

After a 15-month renovation program, the Art Gallery of Windsor has reopened. The place features a specially developed gallery for contemporary changing exhibitions, a new photography gallery, a new Inuit gallery, a redeveloped gallery for contemporary and modern works from the permanent collection. There's a new library and an outdoor sculpture court. The exhibits include "Bob Monks: Editorial Cartoons from the Windsor Star," "Windsor Collects," and "Recent Acquisitions of Contemporary Art."

(The Art Gallery of Windsor is at 455 Riverside Dr. For more information, call 258-7111.)

Single programs

Oakland Community College, Highland Lakes Campus, has several programs for singles planned in January.

Look a recent beating on the market? Well, the Jan. 27 seminar "Investment Strategies" should be right. The seminar should be held in the Wall Street alley. The program, which will be taught by a certified financial planner, focuses on developing a portfolio to weather fluctuations in the market. Cost is \$5 for the one-week program.

"Dating, Making and Self-Esteem" will offer information, attitudes and skills helpful for today's single person. The four-week program costs \$40. "Divorce — Rebuilding" is an eight-week course, which focuses on dealing with loneliness, depression, grief and letting go.

(Oakland Community College is at 7350 Conley Lake Road, Union Lake. For more information or a copy of the brochure, call 360-3041.)

There's no freeze on winter markets

Continued from Page 1

door vending areas or nearby shops. The market is open from 5 a.m.-6 p.m., Tuesdays and Saturdays. Most of the stores, including Hirt which is located on Market near the area's southern boundary, open at 7 a.m.

MICHIGAN BUTCHER'S SUPPLY CO.
Antique food processing equipment line the walls of this retail-wholesale supply company located at St. Aubin and Wilkins, two blocks east of the market.

Ask Mithran Hoplamazian to demonstrate his 1890s meat slicer or 30-year-old meat mixer, then browse the displays of fine Swiss cutlery, spices and meat grinders.

"This is cutlery that is normally used by professional butchers, not the stuff you'd find in a department store. The butcher's tell us what they'll use," Hoplamazian notes. He suggests adding cooking utensils to gift food baskets or arranging spices, foods and cutlery on Michigan maple chopping blocks.

The heavy wood blocks range in price from \$8.75 to \$15.00. A boxed spatula and knife set costs \$6.50 and more extensive gift set, with red-handled slicer and two-tone fork, will set you back \$24.

The shop also stocks Swiss pocket knives (\$6-\$25), spices, and meat counter display materials.

RAFAL SPICE CO.

Your nose will help lead you to the shop, located on Russell between Wilkins and the market's southern boundary.

Step inside and whiff of the fresh-

ly-ground coffee beans that mingle with spices and potpourri in the glass jar-lined store.

"The big item for baskets are the coffees," says Laurie Davis, saleswoman. "But it depends on the person." On Dec. 29-30, "David Copperfield" will be presented.

Hazelnut is the most popular flavored coffee. Grapefruit is the choice for exotic tea flavors.

ROCKY PEANUT COMPANY
The word here is bulk.

Bulk spices, coffees, teas, yogurt-covered snacks and other edibles. The store also carries a selection of imported candies, tins, cookies, cheese, health foods and food-related books.

Similar to Hirt Co., but with more of a retail than warehouse ambience, the shop is located on Russell near the southern end of the market.

GRATNOT CENTRAL MARKET
Cross the pedestrian walkway at the southern end of the Eastern Market.

Inside the central market, vendors sell fresh meats, cheeses, bulk cof-

fees, nuts and spices.

The adjacent Gernach Pistachio Co. offers bulk nuts.

Two bakeries, several restaurants, a seafood specialty market and several vegetable and meat warehousing facilities are located in the market area.

A few of the meat warehouses are open for retail business.

"It's like shopping in a butcher shop except you're inside it," noted market regular Robert Wing, Royal Oak.

The Eastern Market is located between Gratnot and Mack, just east of I-75.

Gifts can be food for thought

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small wedges of cheese or individually wrapped hard candies, can take up space in large containers.

"You want to put in different sizes and shapes. You want some oblong, some round. You don't want all boxes," he suggested. "Always mix it up. You don't want all candies. With cheese you might put in a salami or a small ham."

Don't overstuff the basket. Six or seven substantial foods, surrounded by filler items such as candies, cheeses and decorations, may be just enough to make a breadbasket look full but "not gloppy," Lewis said.

Don't use perishables unless you intend to make the basket and give it away in the same day. "A lot of people may not have the time to make their own basket. They buy ready-made. We sell to all of the

party stores. Nine times out of 10 if you buy a ready-made basket, they've gotten everything from us."

Customers browse in a warehouse setting amid cardboard boxes in the store's basement for seasonal and imported candies and cookies, then head to the third floor for baskets and tins. Prices range from \$8.75 for decorated tins, the size of wastebaskets to \$2 for small tea and candy tins. Baskets range in price from \$1.50 for a small red or green colored berry basket to \$17.50 for a covered picnic basket.

Boxes of imported and gourmet foods line the walls on the first floor. Turtle soup (\$3.22), pheasant consommé (\$2.46), along with puree of goose liver with truffle puree — an \$18 appetizer — add an exotic flavor to food baskets.

Residence Inn offers another style. They are basically small apartments where you can cook, but the bed may or may not be separated from the seating area. These are designed for longer stays.

Suite hotels are the fastest growing segment of the hotel industry. That's the good news. The bad news is that suite hotels fit a moderate but

not a low budget. Embassy Suites say that their rates are always comparable to the single room rate at a local chain hotel of comparable quality, but you are still edging toward \$100 a night rack rate, much less of course at corporate rates.

There are hundreds of these hotels in the United States now. By 1990 Marriott Suites will have built 41 new ones.

Mind your business in a suite hotel

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went national with the idea and called it Embassy Suites. Guest Quarters got into the act, and then Residence Inns... and now everybody's doing it.

If you want to see how the concept works, tour the Embassy Suites Hotel that opened last spring in Southfield or the Guest Quarters Hotel that opened last summer in Troy. The idea is similar in both, and is recreated with minor variations across the country.

When you enter your accommodations from the hallway (which in both hotels overlooks an atrium) you enter a regular living room. There are couches and chairs for casual lounging or meetings, a table and chairs to spread papers on and a refrigerator/wet bar. If you want to serve drinks, there isn't a bed in sight, unless you want to pull out the couch, which usually pulls out into a bed.

Open a closed door and you are in a second room, which looks like most hotel bedrooms. The best accommodations have a bathroom in both rooms, or, if there is only one, it is in the lounge, which means that nobody ever goes through your bedroom. What this means, of course, is that if you want to hold a meeting in your room, you are definitely not sitting on the edge of any bed.

Many suite hotels offer dishes, coffee pots, etc. to guests who ask for them, but another popular feature is free breakfast and free cocktail hour in that busy atrium below. The setting and luxury level of breakfast may vary but we are not talking about coffee and a stale croissant; breakfast means fruit, juice, eggs, bacon, pancakes, the works.

Also included in the price of your room are cocktails in the hotel bar

during a particular time period, say five to seven in the evening. Come back after a hectic day and gather there for social hour. You don't have to worry about who pays the bill. Nobody does.

There are minor variations on this cocktail hour. It is technically illegal to give away free drinks in Michigan, so in Michigan suite hotels you

are given coupons at the desk.

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Outlying Areas - a continuing story

by Ray Kosarin

