

STREET SCENE

Inside **S²**

Music mania

The local music scene is busy with activity. Check out Street Beats, an entire page filled with information on today's musical trends. Featured in this issue is an up-and-coming band from Livonia, Hippodrome. Also included are album reviews, top-10 lists and a calendar of future shows. For more, turn to Page 3D.

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

★ ★ 10

Shooting for the moon — settling for rock stars



CAMILLE MCCOY/staff photographer

Life imitates the high life as Marino imitates a photo he took of Phil Collins.

By Carol Axilian
staff writer

A sensual Bon Jovi, with sailor's cap, hairy chest and boyish charm, tantalizes his female fans from a jacuzzi at Southfield's Holiday Inn.

A reigning Prince, wearing a purple-sequined coat, raises a triumphant finger toward the ceiling of Joe Louis Arena.

An angelic Phil Collins looks heavenward as he warms up on a miniature plastic guitar before his infamous Pine Knob concert.

They were captured on film by Ross Marino, a 28-year-old Troy photographer whose work has appeared in magazines around the world.

His credits include People, Playboy, Rolling Stone, Creem, Circus, Hit Parade, Time, USA Today and Billboard. In Europe: Swiss Illustrated, Bravo, Paris Match. In Japan: Music Life.

MARINO IS among an elite group of cameramen who make a living at shooting rock 'n' roll entertainers. He operates a stock photo agency with 50,000 pictures of more than 400 performers. Up to 300 of them are published each month.

"There are a lot more photographers than there is work," he admitted. And, the competition is fierce. "I only make as much as I hustle."

But the soft-spoken, mellow guy with long curly locks like a rock star

'Competition is fierce. I only make as much as I hustle.'

— Ross Marino

believes determination — not just talent — is a major factor in his success.

He works 12 hours a day, seven days a week. And he hasn't taken a vacation in three years.

His office is cluttered with negatives, slides and concert memorabilia — backstage passes from dozens of shows, life-size Bon Jovi and Prince posters, a racoon tail tossed on stage by a Ted Nugent fan, and autographed portraits.

A MESSAGE from rocker David Lee Roth — pictured leaping in the air in zebra-striped shirt and Spandex pants — sums up the goal of Marino's efforts: "Ross, most people can't capture that point where you've stopped going up and ain't started coming down. Awwrite!"

"I want to capture the peak moment in a concert that most typifies a performer," Marino echoed.

Sometimes, stars stop their shows to give him the best angle. In the middle of a 1984 Dayton, Ohio, concert, Roth invited "his photographer" on stage to snap a family portrait of the musician and his 10,000-member audience.

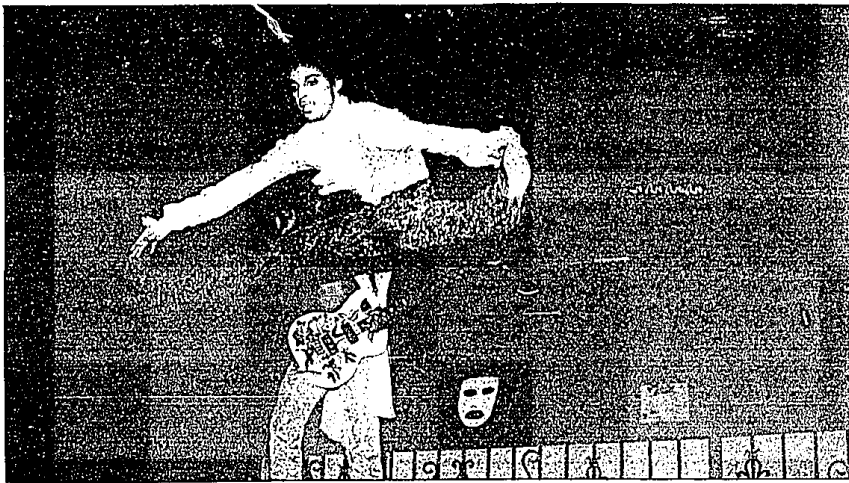
"It took me by surprise, but I didn't think twice about it," Marino said. "The energy level was incredible. I was only up there for 30 seconds, and every set of eyes was glaring at the camera. They were clenching their fists and screaming."

"FORTUNATELY, MY cameras were ready, and I had all the right equipment — wide-angle lenses. It was a matter of focusing and firing." In 1986, he repeated the scene at Roth's Ames, Iowa, appearance. The picture was printed in People Magazine.

Most of the time, however, Marino doesn't have an advantage over other photographers. During Prince's "Purple Rain" concert at Joe Louis Arena, the cameraman was huddled in the penalty box, 100 feet from the stage — with two dozen of his colleagues.

"I was all the way in the back, about 20 feet behind the others. We all had real long lenses."

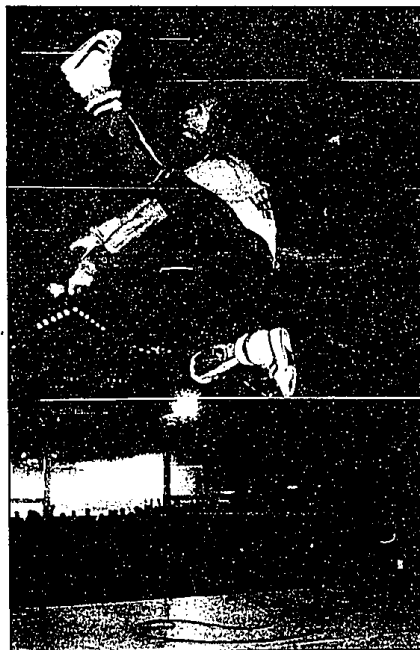
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ROSS MARINO

Although he was 100 feet back from stage — in the penalty box with other photographers — at Joe Louis Arena, Marino man-

aged to snap this shot of Prince during his Purple Rain tour. It made the cover of People Magazine.



ROSS MARINO

Rocker David Lee Roth was so impressed with this photo that he subsequently invited Marino on stage for "family portraits" of the rocker with his audience at concert dates around the Midwest. The results have appeared in national magazines.

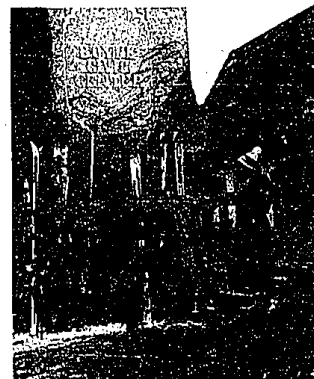
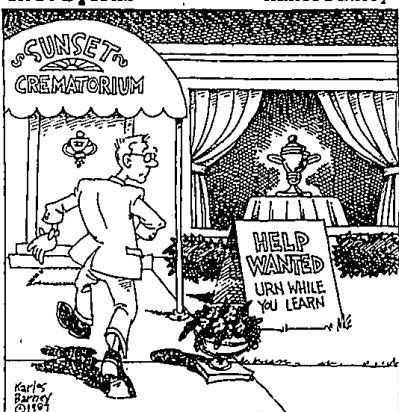


ROSS MARINO

Jon Bon Jovi allowed Marino to snap this intimate portrait at the roomy ... in Southfield because the two are friends. Marino began chronicling the hot rock star when he was an opening act for other groups.

R.U. Syrius

Karlos Barney



MICKY JONES

Skiers gather to pick up their equipment at the racks at Boyne Mountain Ski Resort. The resort is in the northwest section of the state.

Head to the hills for a winter in Michigan

By Iris Sanderson Jones
special writer

Q. As a southerner spending my first winter in Michigan, I thought I would enjoy all those famous Great Lakes winter activities. So far, we've had very little snow. I can't ski, I haven't seen a snowmobile since I got here, and I don't have a clue about winter festivals. What gives?

N.S.J.,
Southfield

A. If you hurry, you can still participate in "Let's Go Skiing Michigan," a free ski day being offered by most of Michigan's ski areas on Friday, Jan. 6. You will get free ski lessons, free tow or trail passes and in some cases, free ski rental.

Most of Michigan's 50 downhill ski areas and almost all the cross-country ski areas are participating in the event, which is part of a national Ski Areas Association and Ski Industries America.

You should reserve in advance, since many of the beginner lessons may already be full. If

you can only make a day trip, your best bet may be one of the four participating ski areas near Detroit: Mt. Brighton in Brighton (229-9581), Alpine Valley in Milford (887-6010), Pine Knob in Clarkston (625-0800), Riverview Highlands in Riverview (479-2266). All have downhill skiing facilities.

It is a little further but still a long day-trip to learn cross-country skiing free at Lake Lansing Park-North in Haslett (517-676-2233) or Bay Valley Hotel and Resort in Bay City (517-684-1501). Blinz Apple Mountain in Free-land offers downhill (517-781-0170) or cross-country (517-781-2550).

If you can't make it Jan. 6, many ski areas around the state are offering discount coupons to new skiers through Feb. 7. (There are also many places in the metro area where you can learn to cross country ski at any time for a small fee.)

Both downhill and cross-country skiing have deep historical roots in Michigan. America's first ski club was founded in Ishpeming, in the Upper Peninsula (U.P.), where thousands of

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