

## 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 Schoederaft, Livonia 48150, or call 591-2300, Ext. 310.



## Neatnik puffnik

For those guys (or gals) who puff on a pipe, here's a handsome combination that will keep the equipment neatly in its when not in use. The leather and wood pipe and tobacco set with brass holder has a ceramic-lined storage container with a tip that fits tightly to keep the leaves fresh. \$95. Roz and Sherm, Birmingham.

## Way ahead on fun

If you like fads — and who doesn't — the trendy of the trendiest is Glazers, a new concept in squirt toys that combine sunglasses with a powerful water pump. What's neat is that Glazers look nothing like a real gun. It features a hand-held pump unit connected to colorful, protective sunglasses. The pump will send a stream of water up to 30 feet from a nozzle located in the sunglasses. Suggested retail price is \$7. At Crowley's, Hudson's and Toys R Us.



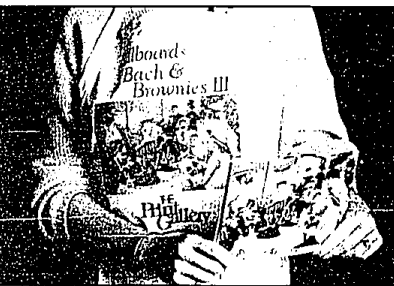
## Tubby pals

For cleaning up or just plain playing, who knows why kids love the water so. These little monster mitts of foam rubber are made just for the tub or shower. They make sudsin' up fun. Choose from Blurple Sudley, Icky Scrubford and Splashful Snorlax. \$2.49 each. Warren Drugs, Farmington Hills.



## Something to crow over

Not only is this white and red ceramic rooster a cheerful addition to any kitchen, it plays a role in keeping things neat by holding all the measuring spoons a good cook needs to have handy. The four spoons are red plastic and go from 1/4 teaspoon to a tablespoon. Spoons form the rooster's tail feathers. \$1.99. Warren Drug Store, Farmington Hills.



## Brownies 'n Bach

If you love to bake — or have a friend who does — and Brownies are also favorites, here's a cookbook full of yummy recipes for you. If you've got to have calories, you might as well do it with class. The recipes come from some really swanky eateries like the London Chop House, VanDyke Place and the Holly Hotel. This duo is called Billboards, Bach and Brownies III. The cookbook is \$7.50 and the apron is \$28. Buy the set and help contribute to charity for Children's Hospital of Michigan. Available from Children's Hospital and the Print Gallery, Southfield.

## STREET WISE

## Adventure in paradise?

Are you a sun-seeking adventurer looking for a cruise that offers something other than five meals a day, an outside cabin, swimming pools and lounges galore?

American Youth Hostels may have an answer that won't put a hole in the bottom of your bank account — a five-day cruise of Florida's Gulf Coast islands aboard a 26-foot sloop. AYH is a non-profit group that promotes outdoor recreation at a low cost and this trip is designed for do-it-yourself outdoor enthusiasts 18 years and older.

The guests are the crew and share in some of the boat chores, but don't let that scare you off. If you're a green horn sailor. The trip offers the fun of learning the art of sail cruising with expert, informal instruction.

The cruise will take in Florida's Sanibel, Captiva, Punta Blanca and Boca Grande Islands, to name a few, with the trip originating in the Fort Myers area. Weekly cruises are available throughout February, March and April.

The cruise costs \$329 per person discounted to \$314 if paid in full 30 days in advance, and covers food, bunk, sailing instruction and running expenses. Transportation to Fort Myers isn't included.

There's one catch. You have to have a 1988 AYH membership. More information is available from the Michigan AYH by calling 343-8511 or by writing AYH, 1024 Lodge Road, Berkley 48072.

## You put your left foot out

Are you someone waits until everyone has gone to be to turn on your favorite Ginger Rogers-Fred Astaire movie?

Have you secretly tapped your feet when the Big Band sounds wait around a dance floor?

Well, you need not hide in the closet anymore. Marygrove College is putting the bounce back into the Charleston and even delving into some of the "dirty dancing" of King Louis XVI's court in a unique continuing education class this winter. Harriet Berg, Detroit's leading dance historian — yes, there was

dancing before Patrick Swayze — is teaching a class in historical dances from the 15th to the 20th centuries. For information about the class call Marygrove's continuing education department at 882-8000, ext. 240.

## Music, music everywhere

The famous wit and charm of Noel Coward will invade the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College Friday for three performances of "Oh, Coward!"

Coward's musical revue looks at the humorous side of society and is being staged by Uper a Lite in Smith Theater. Performances are at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 and 7 p.m. Sunday.

Coward's humor will step aside for another musical revue. "Jacques Brel is Alive and Well Living in Paris."

The production is by OCC's Smith Theater and features music by Brel. Curtain times are 8 p.m. Jan. 29 and 2 and 7 p.m. Jan. 31.

Tickets for both productions cost \$10, or \$21 for the dinner package.

An optional dinner at 8 p.m. Discounts are available for students, senior citizens and groups of 20 or more.

Complete ticket information is available from Angela Arndt or Karen Schanberger at 471-7700.

## What is your bid?

Have you had a hankering for a week at a seaside villa? Been wishing you could join Ernie Harwell in the broadcast booth for a Tiger baseball game?

That just two of the items that will be on the auction block Jan. 30 for the Hooper City and Country Dry School's Hooper for the Stars Scholarship Auction.

The auction is to raise money for low-income and minority students and it promises a selection of unusual and extraordinary items — a \$1,000 pearl necklace or a day in the kitchen with Chef Douglas.

It will be held at the Fairlane Manor, 1900 Hubbard Dr., Dearborn. The silent auction starts at 5:30 p.m. with the live auction starting at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$50 each.

For information, call 842-1500.

## Baby boomers grapple with parenthood

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The way the U.S. Department of Agriculture figures it, parents of babies born this year will spend \$34,122 on food; \$10,895 on clothing; \$2,642 on education; \$7,827 on medical care; \$17,176 on personal care and recreation; and \$22,522 on transportation, as even infants need wheels to get around.

Costs throughout pregnancy, childbirth and six weeks of postnatal care can range from \$1,000 to more than \$9,000, estimates Wilson. Expenses drop after birth, but inch up once a child reaches school age.

Even though just thinking about parenthood leaves many weak-kneed, more and more couples are taking a gulp and the big step.

Since the turn of the century, there's been a decline in the number of children per family. But the proportion of couples who have children has increased.

Arriving at the decision is a different process for every couple.

Some have only to answer the question of when. Others ask themselves whether and when to have a baby.

For the proud parents of 5-month-old Jesse Thomas Predhomme of Plymouth, the issue boiled down to a simple "when?"

"I LIKE kids. I kind of always thought I would have one someday," said Tom Predhomme, a Plymouth accountant. "Given our position, we could work it out, because I'm self-employed, and Margaret has a full-time job. I was able to stay at home, do my job and take care of the kid."

That's not the only reason for the Predhommes' decision, Tom hastens to add.

"Women, they want kids," said Tom, whose wife is one of 11 children.

"I've been around kids all my life. I've experienced all that joy," said Margaret, supervisor of medical records for Henry Ford Hospital's West Bloomfield Center. "We wanted to have a child in our life, but we also need both incomes. We had a mortgage to look forward to."

"We just planned it. We wanted to get settled, and get situated financially. So we waited three years."

So did Maureen and Jeff Egan, who are awaiting with great anticipation the birth of their first baby, due in June.

"At first, we just wanted to have time to ourselves," said Maureen, a Redford native and director of bilingual outreach for Holy Redeemer Church in Detroit.

"The only regret I will have when I quit my job is not having that sense of fulfillment my job gives me. I'm going to have to live that up and get fulfillment from other sources."

Jeff, a financial planner with Troy's Cambridge Financial Services, Inc., said the decision to have a baby "isn't as courageous as you might think."

"THERE'S a certain amount of security you give up, but the upside

is having a family something we want to do."

The situation for Ellen and Bill Stefanak, a Canton couple and the parents of 6-month-old Jennifer, was a little different. Bill has a teenage son from a previous marriage. "and I was really against the idea I thought I was too old to have any more kids," said Bill, an electrician.

"But I knew if I married Ellen that she would want one. We agreed upon one child."

Jennifer "has slowed us down a little," but Bill and Ellen don't mind. "You get so much out of it. I'll never regret it. It's been wonderful. Bill said.

Ellen, her daughter bouncing playfully in her lap, said when you're a healthy 30-year-old female, people put this pressure on you to have a baby. I didn't want to bow to that."

"I didn't always think I'd have one. It took us a year to make the decision. I guess we did it out of love for each other. We were happy in our relationship, and we wanted to share that together," said Ellen, a special education teacher with Plymouth-Canton Community Schools.

Redford's Beth Quinn, mother of 23-month-old Sean, can speak for her husband, Tim, and plenty of new parents on the subject of bills piling up.

"Day care costs vary, but they can go to \$10 a week if you're working full time," said Beth, who waltzes part time.

"IF YOU have someone come to



your house, it's even more expensive. Couples can expect to pay \$5 an hour," she said.

"Disposable diapers cost about \$10 a week, and children's clothes are really expensive. So are cribs, strollers, high chairs, formula. It goes on and on."

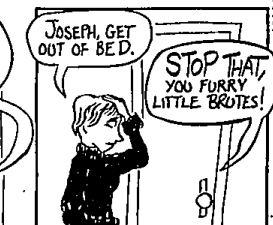
Actually, as bad as it sounds, a lot

of new parents manage just fine, Quinn said.

"You can shop at Sears instead of Hudson's, use hand-me-downs and go to garage sales. A lot of people don't spend that much money on their kids, because they're little and they can get by."

## Outlying Areas - a continuing story

by Ray Kosarin



## Grumblecord

by Neal Levin

