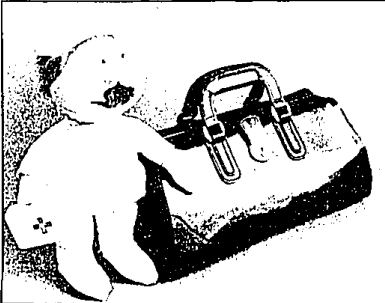


street seen

Charlene Mitchell



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



Doctor in the house?

What a practical and useful gift for the newly graduated physician or the veteran whose years of practice making house calls require nothing but the best. By Schlosser Brothers, the same company that has been making fine briefcases for decades. Fine full-grain leather, hand sewn with precisely fitting hardware. Cadillac Luggage stores, Southfield. Stuffed doctor doll from I'll be the Gift, Orchard Mall.

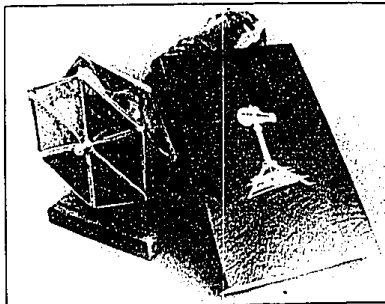
Optical illusion

These deep rose-colored tiger lilies with sprigs of greenery are just what we need to keep thoughts of spring in focus and the best thing about these blooms is that they won't wilt and they don't need watering. Made of pure silk, the entire arrangement has been touched before you know it's not the real thing. It seems so believing, this beautiful bouquet is an optical illusion. Presented in an art deco '20s black vase. The Silk Forest, 29215 Northwestern.



Cut down on errors

Now a standard wood cutting board with all the things you need to know about measurements right in front of you when you need it. In case you aren't aware, one soup spoon equals a half ounce, and a jigger is 42 deciliters. Get a head start on the metric system. Kitchen Glamour stores, Redford and W. Bloomfield.



Bright outlook

Kaleidoscopes have always provided a pleasant respite from the world for early astrologers. Used like a telescope, the eye is treated to indescribable beauty. Colorful patterns, shapes and abstract images change as you turn the instrument. And you never see the same thing twice. To learn about the history, theory and construction, get the book. The two-toned teak and brass kaleidoscope is available at I'll be the Gift, Orchard Mall. \$99. The book is \$12.

Fly away

Getting sick of the cold weather, but a week on the beach basking your bones is out of the question?

Well, Michigan's largest leisure and corporate travel company, Hamilton, Miller, Hudson and Payne, is offering one-day cruises, guaranteed to relieve stress with a day in the sunshine and an evening of excitement.

Okay, you say, what's the catch? A cruise of the Gulf of Mexico isn't something you pay for with pocket change. Not quite, but close.

The "superfare" for the one-day adventure is \$139. There's also the funfare — \$149 — and the lowfare — \$159. That includes round-trip airfare from Detroit to St. Petersburg, Fla., a cruise aboard the Scandinavian Star, three meals while aboard ship and access to all shipboard facilities, such as entertainment and gambling.

Let's face it. A night on the town can cost more than this one-day adventure, and the only thing you need to bring is a bathing suit and a desire to relax.

The cruises begin Monday, Feb. 29. Additional cruises are scheduled

for March 7, 21 and 28, April 4, 18 and 25 and May 2. For reservations call 1-800-541-5852.

In concert

New Age pianist Jim Hajos of Rochester, local practitioner of what some have called yuppie elevator music, will bring his original and lyrical piano style to The Ark, 637 1/2 Main St., Ann Arbor, at 8 p.m. Wednesday, March 9.

The leading local practitioner of the quiet, reflective music popularized by pianist George Winston and harpist Andrus Vollenweider, Hajos will play selections from his successful album, "Awakening," and compositions from his soon-to-be-released recording, "Gentle Images."

Tickets for the concert are available at Earth Wisdom Music and The Ark in Ann Arbor and at Ticket Master outlets.

Curtain call

Alan Ayckbourn's comedy, "Absent Friends," will open for a four-week run Thursday, Feb. 25, at the

Meadow Brook Theater on the Oakland University campus near Rochester.

Ayckbourn's plays are not new to Meadow Brook. Previous hits include his "How the Other Half Loves," "Relatively Speaking" and "Taking Steps."

"Absent Friends" is a witty and perceptive observation of manners and morals on modern suburbia. It's the story of five people who meet for tea to console a friend whose fiancée has drowned. He, however, is perfectly happy and it's the friends who need to be cheered.

Tickets for the play are available by calling the Meadow Brook box office at 377-3300.

Little star

Patrick Seitzer may know the name of that distant star you see in the winter sky. An astronomer, he has been surveying distant celestial objects at observatories in Arizona, Chile and Argentina.

Seitzer will be at the Cranbrook Institute of Science Thursday, Feb. 25, to present an 8 p.m. lecture, "Deep Sky Survey."

Tickets for the lecture cost \$5 and

can be reserved by calling the Cranbrook Institute of Science at 645-3230. The institute is at 500 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills.

In a nutshell

Remember when picking a college was more a case of throwing darts at a map of the United States?

A lot has changed since then and now a New Jersey company, KLM Productions, is offering college review video tapes.

The series of cassettes presents impartial information on the colleges and offers advice on how to choose the school that's best suited to individual goals.

The first cassette in the series — "College Review: Inside the Northeast" — presents 60 minutes of capsule views of 20 of the most competitive colleges and universities in New England, including Boston College, Columbia, Harvard, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Swarthmore to name a few.

"College Review: Inside the Northeast" is available for \$24.95 from KLM Productions, P.O. Box 2, Hasbrouck Heights, N.J. 07604-0002. For faster service call 1-800-634-1616.

Ritz-Carlton is class with capital C

Continued from Page 1

rent a car because the hotel limousine costs \$57.50 a couple from John Wayne/Orange County Airport, a 30-minute drive away, and \$115 a couple from L.A. or San Diego airports, 75 and 65 minutes away respectively.

That's one way and it includes a tip.

The Ritz-Carlton is off by itself on a promontory overlooking the sea, so you can't walk out the door to other attractions. It is a long walk or a five minutes drive to the marina and restaurants at Dana Point.

WITHOUT YOUR own wheels it will cost you about 12 bucks every time you taxi to the shopping and less expensive eating holes of Laguna Beach 10 minutes away.

It is 10 minutes by car to Mission

San Juan Capistrano, 25 minutes to the whale watching boats at Newport Beach and 35 minutes to Disneyland, but that's not accounting for the famous traffic jams of southern California. Disneyland to the Ritz took me two hours on a Sunday afternoon in January.

If this is an important anniversary, you may not leave the hotel at all once you have driven under the porte-cochere to the low rise building, dressed in mid-century modern style, red Spanish-style roof tiles.

A deferential young man will lead you from the small silk-lined reception area, down a baronial promenade lobby to the library, with nubs at the shops, dining rooms and bars along the way. As you turn right at left toward your room, you will see the sea stretching away to the

edge of the world.

I don't have to describe beach time or bar time. You can picture breakfast on the terrace in the cafe and dinner in the dining room. How about Beluga caviar at \$45 an ounce, roast duckling with Michigan cherries, or a paupiette of Dover sole and a vacherin of white chocolate?

One of the pleasant ways to spend a Sunday on this planet is to have afternoon tea amid the silver tea pots and mahogany tables in the library, or to sit in a lounge chair under a palm frond, sipping wine and looking out to sea.

You probably won't see the whales cruising by out there on their annual migration from the Bering Sea to Baja, but the sun glides the sea, the sand beach and the cliffs of Laguna Niguel.

MOST OF THE shoreline of south-

ern California is clustered with beach towns, casual sandals scuffing boardwalks and shops beside the sea. That is all out there beyond the front door, but inside the Ritz it is another kind of California.

Midweek, business travelers enjoy the \$4 million art collection scattered casually around the public rooms. On weekends, guests and drop-in visitors sit in suits and ties or Sunday dresses on tapestry couches or white cane-backed chairs, with just enough sweat shirts and jogging shoes around to keep it California casual.

If you want to put on the Ritz and still do beach time during that important anniversary vacation, call toll-free 1-800-241-3333.

And stay tuned for the new Ritz-Carlton, opening next November in Dearborn.

Equipment helps keep cold at bay

Continued from Page 1

To be comfortable in the cold, you've got to have clothes that will fight wind, rain and snow, yet "breathe" enough to allow evaporation during such rugged activity as cross-country skiing.

Properly dressed, the only way you can get cold "is if you're dead and don't know it," joked Graham.

Graham ought to know. Although he said he isn't a hard-core camp-

er, "twice I've been buried in snow, and twice I've been in 40-below weather with 100 mile-an-hour winds."

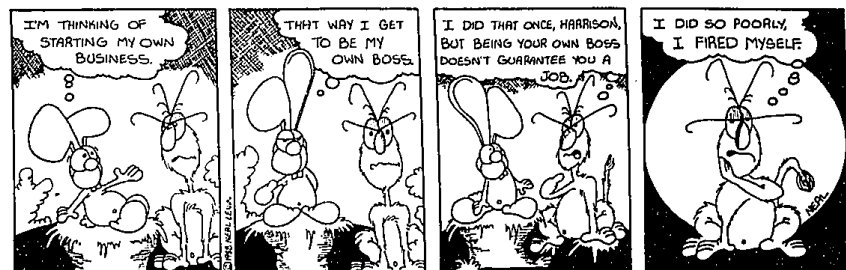
Winter camping isn't something you can decide to do on your own, by yourself. It's not as simple as renting skis and going out to a golf course for a few hours. Got stuck in the woods with the wrong stuff and you may not come out until spring, when some hiker finds what's left of you.

In addition to the right clothes, you need the right equipment (tents you can put up without taking your mittens off, for example) and the right bits of knowledge (store your water containers upside down, so ice doesn't form in the spout).

Graham and his crew can impart some of that knowledge. Smith and the Solar Club can fill you in on the rest of what you need to know. (Call their hotline, 353-2808, for information on the club and its series of outdoor classes.)

Grumblecord

by Neal Levin



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Sat., Feb. 27, All Day U.P. Community School Winter Games, Ishpeming/Negaunee/NICE/Gwin Comm. Schools, Ishpeming/Negaunee/NICE/Gwin/K.J. Sawyer - 5:00 P.M.
Sat., Feb. 27, 10 A.M. Natibahn Lodge Championships, Marquette Lodge Club, Marquette Mountain - 8
Sun., Feb. 28, 9 A.M. Marquette Booster Club Pancake Breakfast, Marquette All Sports Booster Club, Marquette Senior High School, Marquette - 1 P.M.
Sun., Feb. 28, 8 A.M. U.P. Community School Winter Games, Ishpeming/Negaunee/NICE/Gwin Comm. Schools, Ishpeming/Negaunee/NICE/Gwin/K.J. Sawyer - 5:00 P.M.
Sun., Feb. 28, 10 A.M. Natibahn Lodge Championships, Marquette Lodge Assn., Marquette Mountain - 8

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