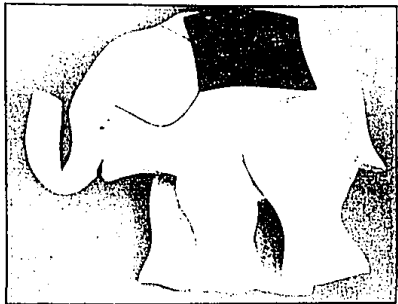


street seen

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.



Unforgettable

For the young at heart, this whimsical carved animal even plays a tune. Hand carved, it's made to hang on a wall. Perfect for a baby's room. If the little one doesn't fall asleep before the music is over, just wind it up again. This elephant doesn't forget what he's suppose to be doing. \$25. Art Poster Co. at LaMirage, Northwestern, Southfield.

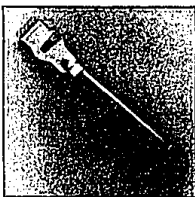


Dino-mite

It seems the dinosaur craze just won't come to an end as these prehistoric creatures keep popping up on everything. This time it's infants hi-top sneakers. Multicolored dinosaur pattern on pink or blue canvas. Socks to match. \$24, shoes; \$4.75, socks. Available at two stores: Gabe Shoes at Orchard 12 Mall, Farmington Hills, and Barry's Shoes, at LaMirage, Southfield.

Twist 'n turn

This kitchen gadget does double duty. Makes perfect twists for bar drinks and the zester gives you those perfect tiny strands called for in so many recipes that are impossible to get with a knife. It's small, convenient and simple to use. \$6.95. Kitchen Glamour stores, Redford and West Bloomfield.



Watered down

Maybe your back hand needs some work or your full press leaves a lot to be desired, but the workouts can be more fun when break-time occurs. A fashionable container to carry your water or juice for drinking is part of the game. This clever thermos comes in a removable, fully insulated case and has a top that resembles a tennis ball. Open the spout and out pops the straw. What a way to sip. \$10. Tennis Plus and Franklin Racquet Club.



Button-down look

What will those fashion designers think of next? Buttons are in fashion this season but in places you wouldn't expect. This wide leather belt with jumbo all-weather buckles is covered with over 100 brightly colored buttons in varying sizes. Looks like designer Michael Morrison swiped his grandma's old sewing basket and came up with a terrific idea. \$225. Sandilar, Applegate Square, Southfield.

Chinese art

More than 30 works of art, featuring Chinese paintings, calligraphy, knotting art and paper cutting, during the March 3-27 National Taipei Institute of Technology Art exhibit at Smith Theatre on Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge campus, 1-696 and Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills. The exhibit, developed and provided by the students, staff and faculty of the Institute in Taipei, Taiwan, will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For information on the exhibit, call the theater at 471-7700.

Next, please

Think you skate as good as Brian Boltano or Debi Thomas? The pack up your ice skates and head for Joe Louis Arena March 18. That's when the Ice Capades performance director and coaching staff will be conducting auditions for new cast members.

The auditions will be held after the 7:30 p.m. show — around 10 p.m. — and prospective cast members must be strong in basic jumps and spins and trained in figure and freestyle skating. A background in dance, drama and gymnastics is a plus.

The minimum age for cast members is 15 years, although talented 17-year-olds may try out, if accompanied by a parent or guardian.

The minimum preferred height for women is 5 feet, 3 inches, while the minimum for men is 5 feet, 8 inches.

Weight should be proportional to height.

If selected to become a cast member, skaters must be available to travel continuously throughout the Ice Capades nine-month tour.

For more information, call 567-6000.

Get away

For skiers looking for their last trip down the slopes and some bikini weather skiing, the Sheraton Oaks in Novi and Mt. Brighton Ski Area are offering an end-of-the-winter week-end getaway package.

Good for Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through March 31, the package includes a deluxe overnight room, a breakfast of scrambled eggs with diced ham, hash browns, toast, orange juice and coffee, full use of the hotel's indoor recreational facilities plus a one-day lift-ticket at the Mt. Brighton Ski Area.

For reservations, call the Sheraton Oaks at 348-5000.

Oh, by the way. The package also includes hot cinnamon apple cider at the Sheraton Oaks, when skiers return from the slopes.

A little bit

A community concert series Friday, March 4, at the Mansion in Detroit will offer a little bit of this and a little bit of that musically.

The concert will be from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. and will include the jazz

sounds of Professor Burns and Friends, 10:30-11 p.m.; the poetry of Kathy Horvath, 11-11:30 p.m.; the folk/acoustic sounds of John Finan, 11:30 p.m. to midnight; the jazz music of Off White Larry, midnight to 1 a.m.; the rock beat of Danny and the Decibels, 1-2 a.m.; and a mystery band, 2-3 a.m.

If you're wondering what will be happening 9-10:30 p.m. . . well . . . there'll be an open mike for would-be performers.

The vegetarian kitchen will be open throughout the night. Admission will be \$3 per person.

The Mansion is at 80 E. Ferry, one block north of the Detroit Institute of Arts between Woodward and John R. Detroit. For information, call 872-0499.

Look east

Interested in learning about Japanese customs and history?

The Farmington Community Center will present a special dinner and discussion, "A Passage to Japan," at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 23.

The evening will feature a complete and authentic Japanese meal with live Koto music and discussion about the country's customs and history.

The discussion will be lead by Izumi Meyers, director of Japanese relations at the Sheraton Oaks Hotel in Novi. A native of Yokohama, Japan, Meyers is a former ballerina in the Tokyo Ballet Company and a third-degree master from the Ohara School of Ikebana (Japanese flower arranging).

Her presentation will acquaint participants with Japanese customs and traditions from both a business and social perspective.

Cost for the evening is \$12 per person. Tickets are available at the center, 24705 Farmington Road, north of 10 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. For information, call Robert Striks at 477-8404.

A dog day

Dogs — Bichon Frise, to be exact — will have their day Friday, March 11, when the Southeastern Michigan Bichon Frise Club holds its third specialty and obedience trial.

The show will be at the Hazel Park Recreation Hall, 620 W. Woodward Height Blvd., Hazel Park, 5-10 p.m.

The show will feature some 60 Bichon Frise dogs, ranging in age from 6 months to seniors.

Now, there's no need run out to get an American Kennel Club book to see what a Bichon Frise looks like. The Bichon is a small, curly white-coated dog, with big brown or black eyes and long ears. It carries its feathered tail over its back.

The primary purpose of the show is to allow Bichon Frise fanciers to display their dogs and earn AKC championship points. Visitors will have a chance to make appointments to buy dogs while at the show.

Tickets cost \$2 for adults, with children under 12 years free when accompanied by an adult.

Photo possibilities abound in winter

By Sandy Colton
AP Newsfeatures
Staff writer

It's a dreary, foggy, terrible day here atop Bleeker Mountain in northern New York state. The snow is melting!

Just a few days ago I was happily riding my snowmobile on a 20-mile headfirst "poker run" through the surrounding mountain trails. I have the lower back pain to prove it! The woods were lovely, trees covered with ice and snow, a fantasy land.

And now it's all melting. How depressing.

Perhaps, though, you were one of the lucky ones at the Winter Olympics in Calgary, Canada. I'm sure you brought along your warm clothes and snow boots, and I hope you didn't forget your camera.

Spectacular photos are there for the taking — downhill skiing, ice hockey, speed skating and a number of other winter events.

But even if you weren't among those going to the Olympics, you should try your hand at winter photography. Chances are plenty of opportunities are all around you — some literally in your own backyard.

How about photographing the snowball fight to end all snowball fights, or the landscape — so green during the summer, but totally different when covered with snow?

Before venturing out into the cold with your camera, remember that winter poses two noteworthy challenges: cold and the glare of brightly lit ice and snow.

EASTMAN KODAK Co., an official consultant to the 1988 Olympic Winter Games, says cold and glare shouldn't put a damper on your picture-taking activities. If some simple suggestions are followed. For example, to combat cold, Kodak recommends the following:

- Protect your camera from the cold. Keep the camera under your coat or in a pocket until you are ready to use it. Remember, even new batteries temporarily lose their power in cold weather. Always carry a spare set and keep them in a warm place, such as an inside pocket.

- Protect against condensation. To prevent moisture from condensing on cold film or cameras and possibly causing damage, wrap film and cameras in a plastic bag before taking them into a warm room or car from the outdoors. Allow film and equipment to warm for an hour or more before removing from the bag.

camera angles

- Rewind film slowly. In cold, dry weather, rewind exposed film slowly into the cassette before removing it from the camera. Rapid rewinding may cause a static charge to build up on the film, resulting in "sparks" that leave visible, lightning-like trails after the film is developed.

Achieving proper exposure in bright, glaring snow and ice conditions is a problem that is puzzling to many photographers. Underexposed photographs of snowmen, downhill skiers in action and skaters on a frozen pond are common. Most cameras with automatic exposure features

will take these pictures, but faces of people in the pictures will be dark.

If you have a camera with manual exposure control, or an automatic camera with exposure override, you can take steps to avoid underexposure. The trick is to take a direct meter reading of snow or ice and then open up two f-stops.

FOR EXAMPLE, with Kodak VR-G 100 film (ISO 100), and a meter reading of 1/250th of a second at f-11 off snow, proper exposure would require you to open up two stops to f-5.6 while leaving the shutter speed at 1/250 of a second.

Your choice of film for winter photography depends upon the lighting conditions as well as your subject matter. Under bright outdoor lighting, a film like Kodacolor VR-G 100 is a good choice.

Kodacolor VR-G 200 is also a good choice, particularly if you'll be shooting some shots in open shade. If

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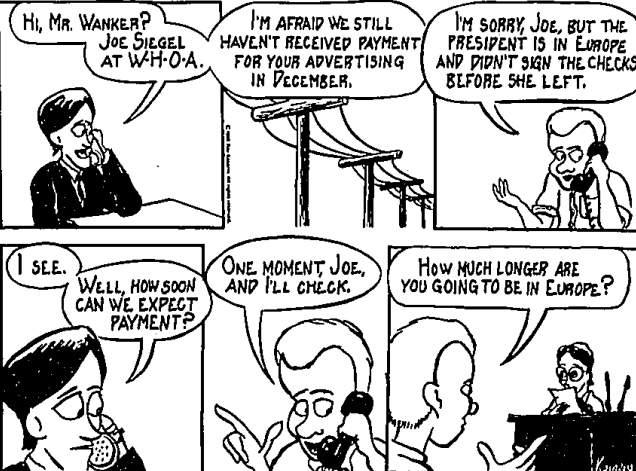
the day is overcast, the faster Kodacolor VR-G 400 film is a good bet, particularly if you want to capture some high speed action.

If you plan to shoot indoors at an ice skating rink, Kodak recommends that you try its highest speed Kodacolor VR-1000 film, but make sure that your camera is capable of using such film.

You'll find, after a little experimentation under winter conditions, that successful and exciting photography isn't just limited to warm weather months.

Outlying Areas

a continuing story



by Ray Kosarin

Grumblecord

by Neal Levin

