

STREET SCENE

Inside **S²**

Instant hair

In the 1980s, wigs and wiglets were the rage when it came to jazzing up hair. Now it's hair weaving and extensions. Synthetic fibers are being braided, twisted and attached to real hair to add fullness and length. For more on the 1980s version of hair pieces, please see Page 6D.

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

Monday, September 12, 1988 O&E

★10



Carol Levitte of Plymouth got some moral support from fellow "Wheel of Fortune" hopefuls while tried to figure out a sample puzzle during tryouts in the Detroit area recently.

STEVE FECHT/staff photographer

Finding that fortune spinning the 'wheel'

By Tom Henderson
staff writer

Words might be their game, but they were his living. What chance did they have, those housewives who would be his competition to spin the Wheel of Fortune? He'd leave them spinning their wheels.

The big day began with attention to details. Leaving as little to chance as possible, having studied the angles and the psychology, he knew a simple mastery of words would not be enough.

He would be TELEGENIC. This was, after all, (or would be, when he passed the tryout) TEE-VEE. All surface, no substance. Flash and sizzle. A medium with which he had no small familiarity. After all, he'd made the local TV news in 1954 when he'd been one of the first school kids in the country to get a polio shot; then, there was the appearance on the Justice Colt show on Channel 9 in 1956; and the time in 1969 when his mother had picked him out of a crowd shot on CBS of an anti-war rally at Michigan State.

So, he got up half an hour early to iron a blue shirt, blue being a prime TV color. And then there was the extra close shave. And the extra application of hair conditioner so he could get those long strands in the back to curl, telegenically.

It was overkill, of course, like a shark on a guppy, like the Twins against the Tigers. Experience, telegenics AND word mastery. Yanna, he thought as he walked out the door, here I come. Pat, step aside.

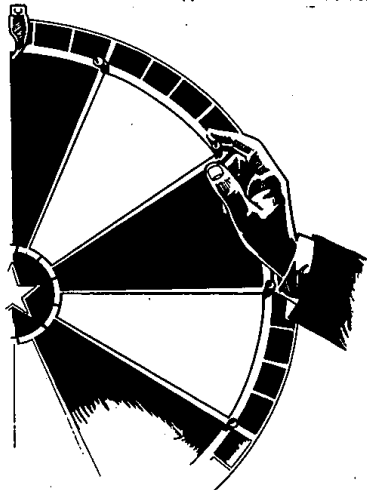
THE LINE OF contestants snaked in a long line toward a ballroom at the Omni Hotel downtown. Along the way, he'd seen an article in the Free Press on how to pass the Wheel tryout. It confirmed what he knew — they weren't looking for puzzle players, they were looking for attitude, enthusiasm, the GOOD LOOK.

His competition was about what he'd expected, mostly housewives and a few men in polyester. The Wheel of Fortune folks had scheduled about 400 people for tryouts on this swing through town. Many had won their tryout by beating long odds, getting through jammed lines at WCZY radio as part of a promotion.

"I had it on re-dial, but I still had to dial the 1 myself," said one woman behind me in line. Everyone seemed to be a radio contest regular; they traded tips and stories of busy signals. Thank God for push-button phones.

There were about 135 of them in this session, and they were seated on chairs in rows. Some glib guy named Harv

Please turn to Page 4



R.U. Syrius

Karlos Barney

IF I UNDERSTAND CANIS CORRECTLY, MY TRIP THROUGH THE WOODS IS AN EXISTENTIALIST METAPHOR FOR MAN'S MEANINGLESS JOURNEY THROUGH LIFE. LIKE KAFKA, I CREATED AN ILLUSORY WORLD OF MY OWN IMAGINATION... HAUNTED BY A RECURRING NEUROSIS OF ANIMALS DRESSING LIKE PEOPLE. PERHAPS 'REARRANGING MY GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE' REPRESENTS MY OWNING OF A CAT... LIKE HENRI MANDELLA BURNING THE BULLS IN PHOENIXA, FREUD SEEMS TO SUGGEST THE 'BIG BAD WOLF' IS MY OWN REpressed SEXUALITY...

OF COURSE I KNOW SUNSET TEARS... HE WAS AN "HAWAIIAN" LAST WEEK. MARY DICK? DIDN'T THEY JUST TOUR WITH TIFFANY?



Well-Read Picking Hood.

Little-Read Picking Hood.

B&Bs can be businessman's 'home'

By Iris Sanderson Jones
contributing travel editor

Q: I travel all over Michigan on business. My expense account won't cover top hotels and I am really tired of roadside motels. Do bed and breakfast places make any sense for business travelers. My husband says no, but we stay in them on vacation, so why not?

I.K.,
Redford

Q: Where should we stay when we visit our daughter at Kalamazoo College in Kalamazoo?

M.S.,
Troy

A: I can answer both questions with two words: Hall House.

Hall House is a beautiful old home, converted to a bed and breakfast accommodation near both Kalamazoo College and downtown Kalamazoo.

Like most of the downtown B & B's in Kalamazoo, and other city settings, Hall House caters to business travelers. Their guests fall into three categories — business men and women headed for the offices of the Upjohn Co.; teachers and parents interested in one of the city's two universities and vacation travelers.

Madeline Bender and her husband Peter O'Connor are good examples of travelers who used Hall House for more than just a vacation. Madeline was originally from Birmingham, Peter from Grand Rapids.

Please turn to Page 2



Owner Pat O'Connor caters to people breakfast, Hall House, on Thompson Street in Kalamazoo.

BERRY JONES