

# STREET SCENE

Inside **S<sup>2</sup>**

## Numero uno!

It's a lofty perch, but Frank Allison and the Odd Sox are up to the challenge. A band that packs a musical bite worth noting has the distinction of being Street Scene's Best Local Band of the Year. Find out more about this first rate group on Page 6D.

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A master of mixology, Frank Michalec of Troy uses his bartender's school skills to create a drink at Neale's Pub in Royal Oak.

STEVE CANTRELL/staff photographer

## Practice makes perfect mixology

**'The certification is all important — especially with the new liquor laws in Michigan.'**

— Keith Johnson

By Loraine McClish  
staff writer

Mimosa.  
Molotov Ball.  
Golden Cadillac.  
Lion Tamer.  
Almond Joy.

With stop watch in one hand and check board in the other, Shirley Restum calls off the drinks, emulating a waitress who is giving orders to a bartender. A long line of tyro bartenders go into action and within a few minutes present her with colorful trays of perfectly mixed drinks.

Points were marked down on one tray because one of the cocktails was served up in the wrong kind of glass.

The process continued with another five- or six-part order. Before graduation, the students will all know how to mix a total of 260 drinks, with accent on the 200 that

are commonly ordered in the metro area.

It's no wonder Restum's students called her "General Patton."

After the session on mixology, the students moved to another room where a mock interview for a job was set up. Keith Johnson held sway over this class, acting out a scenario between employer and employee where every possible thing that could go wrong in an interview did. He showed his students how to turn the negatives into positives.

The last session of the evening was a review class on dessert wines.

IT ALL TOOK place in Professional Bartender's School in Southfield, the only accredited school of its kind in southern Michigan that sends its graduates out into the job market with certification.

"The certification is all important especially with the new liquor laws in Michigan," Johnson said. "It

also includes a separate certificate on Alcohol Awareness. It gives the bar owner a tax break on insurance and it gives him assurance that he's hiring someone who knows what he's doing."

The students can set up a bar from scratch, take inventory — counting various levels of opened bottles — know how to manage a bar, handle the cash and the drinks, give first aid, and get a full course in career development — how to make it all happen — "for as high as you want to go, and I do my job in motivating them," Johnson said.

"They are bartenders now, but most of them will be managers," he added. "Probably, one of the most important things we offer is job placement. Well, we call it job placement, but I call it job assistance because I don't promise anything."

STARTING RATE for a bartender is minimum wage with an expectation of making \$25,000 a year with

tips "on the first year out — easy," Johnson said.

Classes run about 50-60 with males and females. About 60 percent of them are looking only for evening or weekend jobs.

"I always have a couple of students who are putting themselves through school bartending on the weekends," Johnson said. "There is always the retiree who wants a part-time job. Once in a while we get the 50-year-old executive that is just burned out and wants a change."

A lot of the females are mothers who need a flexible schedule, he said. They are generally on call for caterers and can say yes or no depending on their domestic situation.

"They all can make \$150 to \$200 on a weekend," he said.

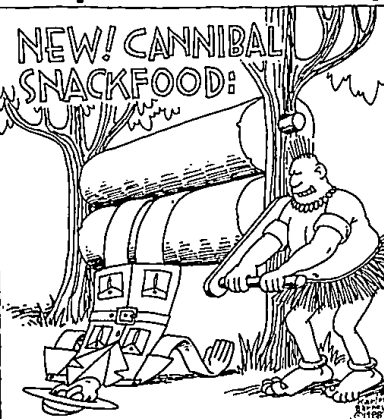
"We send a lot of them on cruise ships or on Amtrak. I've got a couple now who are ready to set off to cover the beaches in Florida."

**Starting rate for a bartender is minimum wage with an expectancy of making \$25,000 a year with tips 'on the first year out — easy.'**

— Keith Johnson

R.U. Syrius

Karlos Barney



Missionary Roll-ups.

## 'Tis the time to find the right slope

By Iris Sanderson Jones  
contributing travel editor

This is the first day in several weeks that you've had time to think about anything except holiday gifts, holiday parties, holiday dinners and how to get all those deadlines met before the end of the year.

For most of us, the week between Christmas and New Year's Day is a time to slow down and start thinking about next year. For skiers, it's a perfect time to start looking around for the right slopes.

Or, if you are just crazy enough to like snow and ice, time to start planning trips to winter events. The big one close to home is the Ice Sculpture Spectacular in Plymouth Jan. 9-15.

If you got your first skis for Christmas, go directly to the phone and call toll-free (800) 543-YES. Ask them to send a copy of "Let's Go Skiing, Michigan!" which lists the ski resorts participating in Ski Free Day Friday, Jan. 20.

On that day you can get free beginning ski lessons and area lift and



MICKY JONES

The ski slopes at Boyne Mountain offer plenty of challenges for winter enthusiasts.

trail tickets. If you sign up in advance, some places even offer free equipment rental for the day. You must sign up before Jan. 20. Resorts are accepting reservations on a first

come, first serve basis, so do it early.

More than 8,000 people learned to ski that way at 42 downhill facilities in Michigan last year. The state pro-

gram is part of the national "Let's Go Skiing, America!" program, which signed up 24,000 novices. Michigan was one-third of the national total.

TAKE A relative skiing. Skiers age 55 and over can ski free at most Michigan facilities during Silver Streak Week Jan. 30-Feb. 3.

News from the Michigan slopes includes Single Parent Ski Week and Annual Singles Weekend, part of College Week Jan. 1-8 at Indianhead/Bear Creek Ski Resort in Wakefield in the Upper Peninsula. They've increased their snowmaking capabilities by 50 percent this year.

Marquette Mountain in Marquette has been bought by Curry Development of Chicago; the same Currys, who over the past few years, bought and renovated both the Perry Hotel in Petoskey and Park Place Hotel in Traverse City.

You can get immediate information about Boyne Mountain or Boyne Highlands by calling their Detroit

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