

street seen

Charlene Mitchell



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

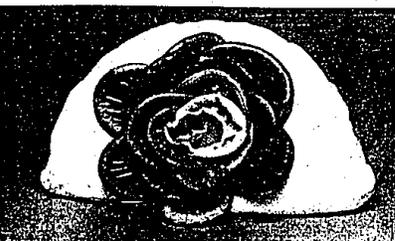
Scentsible addition

Hand-turned wooden incense burners are showing up on the home accessory front. These come in a variety of domestic and exotic woods by Thomas J. Hoffman of Pontiac and come also with 10 sticks of free incense. The incense incidentally is also handmade by the Pampored Lady of Holly. It comes in traditional fragrances as well as in designer perfume fragrances. Incense sets for 10 sticks for \$1. Burners range from \$10 to \$25. The Art of Crafts Gallery, 315 S. Main, Royal Oak. Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday. Closed Sunday and Monday.



Puff 'n' circumstance

Someplace special to go and not a thing to wear? The skilled wardrobe artists at Cocktails boutique specialize in very special occasions. This ensemble, for example, features a two-piece silk dress with V-neckline and puff short sleeves and perlim waist. \$256. Necklace by 'Aimee Beaucoup, \$175; earrings by Michele Sugar, \$95. Cocktails in Crosswinds Mall, West Bloomfield.



Rosy future

Here's the perfect purse for the well-dressed woman going on a cruise. Don't worry about the ocean spray. Basic white bag comes to full bloom with a jumbo flower made of pieces of brightly colored leather and snakeskin. \$230. Beggit, 28915 Northwestern, Applegate Square, Southfield.



Chilly nilly

With old man winter threatening to ice up our windshields any time now, this heavy duty scraper and brush combination is just the ticket to have handy. It's better than the usual scraper because it extends to 21 inches long and is extremely sturdy. Fits right under the car seat when folded. \$8.40. Marmel Gifts, 28857 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills.

STREET SENSE

Got a question? Schiff has the answer

Starting this week, Street Sense has some good advice for you, thanks to psychotherapist Barbara Schiff. Schiff "always wanted to write an advice column," and now she is.

Besides a desire to write, she brings to the task years of experience as a counselor and therapist in private practice and as a school psychologist in Utica and Detroit.

"I provide a lot of marital therapy in my private practice, but it's really very eclectic, and I expect the column will be, too," she said. "Street Sense seems to attract a lot of younger readers, and many of the problems the column deals with will probably reflect that — getting along on a new job, dating, getting started in marriage."

Newspaper advice columns are hardly a substitute for therapy, but Schiff sees her new forum as something substantial, something more than just human interest reading.

"There are people who have problems, but I can't ask anybody about them," she said. "There is something about not saying what you're thinking. The column is sort of an intermediary step. If they can write down a problem and mail it in, they might take some advice, might go see somebody."

AN ANCIENT piece of advice recommends a healthy mind in a healthy body, a prescription that describes Schiff's resume.

Besides her private psychotherapy practice in Birmingham, she is co-owner of the Workout Co., an aerobics and fitness salon, also in Birmingham.

"I started running when I was 27," Schiff said, "and was teaching aerobics at the Y 17 years ago before it was popular."

Schiff, who holds a master's degree in psychology from the University of Michigan, appeared on a number of times on Sonja Friedman's TV show when it originated from Channel 4 in Detroit, and also has appeared on Channel 7's "Kelly & Co."

She lives in Birmingham with her husband, an attorney, and teenage stepson. Another stepson attends Oakland University, and her son is

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enrolled at the University of Vermont.

Dear Barbara, I am a 38-year-old woman with a 6-year-old daughter. I was divorced five years ago and since then have developed a very close relationship with another woman. We are together all the time. She is wonderful with my daughter and helpful around the house.

My problem is that my mother doesn't like her. She, my mother, is nice enough to her when she is with me, but behind her back accuses her of trying to control me and "lead me around by the nose." None of this is true, but I am distressed and confused because my mother said it. My mother wants to leave her out of a party we are giving. What should I do?

Joan

Dear Joan, Invite her. Your problem is that you are unsure of what to do. Someone is controlling you, if not your friend, then your mother. Why, otherwise, would a woman your age even consider listening to such a request from her mother or anyone else.

Find a nice way, or a not so nice way if you prefer, to tell her to mind her own business. If she can't, you would be better off to make your own party preparations without her.

While your question seems innocuous enough, delving into it opens a Pandora's box. You sound like an extremely dependent woman for whom these conflicts must often arise.

There must be many situations in which you don't know what to do and question your instincts. That's what happens when our need for others' approval outweighs our need to find and develop ourselves.



You sound like just this sort of person and the older you get the more exaggerated this problem will become, because while others have taken some chances at being rejected to find out who they are and what they feel, you have stayed safe, but underdeveloped.

This has a cumulative effect. Take a look at yourself possibly you could take some disapproval, if you could feel stronger as a result.

Barbara

Dear Barbara, Even writing this down embarrasses me, but I must get an answer. The story is long, so bear with me.

My brother bought a large quantity of meat for our mother, but when it was delivered, either it had not been properly wrapped or had been frozen too long and was bad. I told my brother I would return it and I got a due bill for it. My mother reimbursed my brother, so now I really owed my mother the money, \$50.

A few months later, my father asked me to pick up an expensive belt for him in New York. I bought the belt — it was \$200 — and gave it to my father. When my father called to ask how much he owed me, it

crossed my mind for an instant that he only owed me \$140, but I said \$200.

He caught me. He said didn't I have a due bill for \$60 and was only owed \$140. "Oh," I said, "I forgot." The matter was dropped.

I am so embarrassed that I tried to steal \$60 from my father. Our relationship has never been a good one, but certainly, that doesn't justify stealing. It also makes me worry. Would I have ignored the whole incident, if I hadn't been caught, and am I stealing at other times and not aware of it?

Do you think I need counseling? As I said at the beginning, I do need some advice.

Justin

Dear Justin

First, to answer your question — do you need counseling — I don't know enough about you to make a recommendation. The problem you describe in your letter does not, by itself, indicate such a need. In fact, your self-awareness makes you the kind of person who could achieve self-growth without therapy.

The issue of lying and stealing and our society's attitude toward money in general is a complicated one that is often two-faced. While we say honesty is best, it is not the honest, but the rich that we admire. Thus, one must have an independent spirit to live honorably rather than greedily.

The other question that you ask is about whether you are not sometimes unaware of this deviant streak in your behavior. Without more information, I cannot answer, but again, that you're asking it shows that you are motivated toward admirable goals.

I once read that there must be tension between who we are and who we want to become for growth to occur. I hope that the tension you feel will work positively for you.

Barbara

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STREET WISE

On your mark

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan is keeping its fingers crossed that there's snow on the ground Saturday.

The Blues is sponsoring a series of cross country ski circuit races, which kick off Saturday at the Glenn Oaks Golf Course in Farmington Hills.

The "Ski for Health" circuit races for beginners and experienced skiers are being held in cooperation with the Detroit, Oakland County and Farmington Hills parks and recreation departments.

The other races will be Feb. 4 at Independence Oaks Country Park in Clarkston and Feb. 11 at the Billy Rogell Golf Course in Detroit.

Participants can register on site for meets up to one hour before race time. The races will be held in two heats — one in the morning for experienced skiers of all ages and one in the afternoon for novice skiers of all ages.

Race distances are 7 to 15 kilometers for experienced skiers and 4 to 12 kilometers for novice skiers.

The races at Independence Oaks will be at 9 a.m. and noon, while the

races at Glen Oaks and Rogell will start at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

For more information, call the Farmington rec department at 474-8149, the Oakland County rec department at 858-0905 or the Detroit rec department at 935-5331.

Close to home

Closer to home, you can chase away the winter blinks at a Goombay Festival Sunday, Feb. 5, at the Key Largo Restaurant in Walled Lake.

Goombay festivals are celebrated each summer in the streets of the Bahamas. Colorful costumes and rhythmic, pulsating sounds dominate the festivities.

The tropical party — 4-9 p.m. — is a benefit for the Children's Center, an agency providing mental health services for children and their families.

Bahamian dancers and the music of The Tropical Connection steel drum band will be the featured entertainment. There will be plenty of prizes given away, including a Bahamas vacation from Keytours.

Guests are encouraged to add to the spicy atmosphere by wearing tropical attire. There will be Caribbean hors d'oeuvres and special desserts.

Tickets cost \$45 per person, or \$20 per couple, and are available from the Children's Center by calling 831-5535.

A premiere

The Theater Company of the University of Detroit will stage the Michigan premiere of Australian playwright Ron Elisha's "Two" Friday, Jan. 27, through Sunday, Feb. 12.

Set in 1948 Germany, "Two" is a

provocative drama that uses language and music to explore the nature of good and evil. "Two" mixes poetry, philosophy, mystery and intrigue in an attempt to understand man's role in the world — past, present and future.

Anno, a German woman wishing to emigrate to Palestine, seeks out Rabbi Chaim Levi to learn Hebrew. Levi is a rabbi without a congregation who earns his living teaching music.

Teacher and student soon discover they share a love of music, of language and of dialect.

Tickets cost \$7 — \$5 for students and senior citizens. For tickets, call 927-1150.

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