

## table talk

### Italian dinner

Cranbrook P.M.'s "Adventures in Good Taste" presents "A Northern Italian Dinner" at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15, at the newly opened R.I.K.'s the Restaurant in West Bloomfield, where Chef Rick Halberg will present a dinner based on traditional recipes with a modern flavor. Halberg also operates R.I.K.'s Total Cuisine Center. Reservations at \$40 per person include wines with dinner. For reservations, call 645-3535.

### Valentine's Day

A candlelight dinner buffet and dancing to Mel Ball and Colours will be offered Tuesday, Feb. 14, at the Top of the Patch in the Hotel Pontchartrain in Detroit. Cost is \$49.95 per person. A Valentine's prize menu will be available in Elaine's restaurant for \$59.95 per person. For reservations call 965-0200, extension 3757 or 3768.

### On the rocks

"Hot rock cooking" is the attraction at Clamdiggers in Farmington. The cook-it-yourself method uses a flat polished granite rock, heated in a 500-degree oven and delivered to the table on a large ceramic serving tray with the dinner, ready to cook. The rock remains hot for one hour and the guest may cook his or her meal to individual taste. Dinners combine Maine lobster, fresh fish, shrimp and more. All hot rock entrées are served with pineapple, peapods and peppers, with three sauces for dipping.

# Show holds kids spellbound

Performances of "The Wind in the Willows," presented by the Peanut Butter Players, continue Saturdays-Sundays at a children's luncheon theater at the Karas House in Redford. For ticket information call 533-0-7187.

By Bob Weibel  
special writer

Performers who can hold an audience of youngsters for 75 minutes with hardly a squirm or whisper are obviously doing something right.

Actually, Detroit's Peanut Butter Players do just about everything right. First off, it chose a 1985 musical adaptation of Kenneth Grahame's marvelous 1908 children's classic, "The Wind in the Willows," for its current luncheon theater production.

Next, director Jo Anne Lamun cast some of the area's best young professional performers and taught them British accents (which they do rather well for the most part). Then, the production staff costumed them with quite stunning outfits (especially some of the animals) and created ingenious scenery to set the mood. Musical director C. J. Nodus adds the final touch with his keyboard artistry and special effects.

The story is about animals of an

English meadow with many of our human traits and frailties. At the center of it all are the antics of a wealthy Mr. Toad — a charming but incorrigible rogue with a weakness for motorcars (which he is constantly wrecking). Chris McKenna plays Mr. Toad with the aplomb and comic panache of a Monty Python skit. McKenna is the perfect lovable rascal.

MR. TOAD loves the good life — and cares little for the lower classes (represented by the weasels, ferrets and field mice of the nearby wild-wood forest). Of course, they don't care much for him, as we learn in perhaps the best number of the show, "Down with the Toad."

Mr. Toad resents society's "rules" and rebels against authority. He even mistreats his best friends, Leigh Jonath (as the Mole) and Danny Gurwin (as the Rat) are very good as exasperated friends trying to get Mr. Toad to see the error of his ways. Ian Kester (as the Badger) also scored as the wise old geezer others come to for advice.

Eventually, Mr. Toad learns (the hard way) after a stint in jail and other indignities, the value of friendship, responsible behavior and the need for law and order.



Bob Weibel

Other standouts of the Sunday cast of 13, each of whom played several roles, are Courtney Bell, Celia Keenan-Bolger, Anne Marie McKenna and Eddie Sugarman. A second cast performs Saturdays.

Bob Weibel of Westland is a freelance writer, who has spent more than 25 years in community theater as a director, designer and performer.

### Bow Wow Ball

A strolling supper, with an elaborate array of gourmet entrees, will be featured at the second annual Bow Wow Ball on Saturday, April 1, at Somerset Mall in Troy. The evening, to benefit the Michigan Humane Society, begins at 7:30 p.m. with a cash bar, silent auction and the supper. This is the second annual Bow Wow Ball, and an additional number of chefs and dining establishment have joined the roster for 1989. A Spring/Summer Fashion Presentation by Saks Fifth Avenue, a limited live auction, coffee and desserts, and entertainment by Ursula Walker and Buddy Budson also are included. Tickets are \$75 for Friends, \$125 for Patrons and \$250



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\$225 per night  
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# THE MERCHANT OF VINO VALENTINE BUYING GUIDE

### The Ossetra Selection

Includes a 30 gram jar of ossetra caviar, petit toasts, creme fraiche, chocolate truffles and a bottle of Domane Chandon champagne all packaged in the Petrossian insulated carry-all bag.

**\$60.00**

### The Beluga Selection

A very special selection of the best includes a 30 gram jar of beluga caviar, Petrossian Scottish smoked salmon, one half pound of chocolate truffles, petit toasts, creme fraiche, and a bottle of Mumm's champagne all attractively packaged in a Petrossian insulated carry-all bag.

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### Champagne for Your Valentine

Pommery Brut Dry with 2 glasses

**\$18.00**

1985 Codorniu Blanc De Blancs

**\$6.00**

Korbel Extra Dry Brut

**\$8.00**

Domaine Chandon

**\$10.50**

Mumms Extra Dry

**\$17.00**

### Cellar Selection

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