

Strictly mom and pop

As a stand-up comic for 12 years, Mark Schiff has emerged at the top of his comedic class. His style is strictly mom and pop — impressions of people, not of famous people, but of your mother, your father, your uncle, your cat. Find out more about Schiff on Page 5B.

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Artist Deborah Kashdan entitled this work — oil on canvas — "Museum Performance Piece: Our Crowd."

STEPHEN DANTRELL/Staff photographer

Art to wear or hang on a wall



Pam Jablowski (right) and Kim Cox show off some of the hand-painted denim jackets the former creates with a set of acrylic paints and a paint brush any day.

PAM JABLOWSKI

By Debbie Sklar
social writer

Dressed in one of her husband's old oxford shirts, splattered with a menagerie of oil paints, artist Deborah Kashdan steps back from her painting to reassess it and put on the final touches — an antique pair of earrings.

Kashdan, 42, of Franklin creates wearable art creations. She paints people in social situations, attaching to some previously owned items like jewelry and clothing.

"I've been painting for as long as I remember," she said. "From my earliest memory, I have always been an artist. I've worked in everything from watercolor to stone."

She calls herself a commentator of the urban scene, a reporter of worlds in paint. "My works are narratives, documenting the social dramas of life past, present and future," she said. "At the same time, they're abstract reality, challenging the viewer by forcing them to interact with the painting. The viewer must decide where reality ends and fantasy begins."

Kashdan's paintings usually involve people who are in real situations whether it's at a party, a club or in a restaurant.

"My people are from other lives, theirs and mine," she explained. "They appear as archetypes for people who are ambiguous in time, representing a universal person, a person whose actions and interactions are timeless. They appear in dramas that record the innuendoes of social intercourse."

SHE LIKES to add old pieces of jewelry or clothing to the people in the paintings to give them more character and life. "Whenever anyone has anything to throw out, they know who to give it to," she said.

Her paintings range in price from \$1,500 to \$7,500. Most are on the large size (8 by 8 feet) and require not only a spacious wall, but "a family who feels comfortable living and looking at these people I've painted."

In addition to her paintings, she also creates free-standing sculptures, incorporating previously owned items.

Kashdan studied at the Center for Creative Studies, College of Art and Design, Michigan State University and took courses at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association. She has showcased her work at numerous galleries and exhibitions across the country.

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Warp Factor

Karlos Barney



For some inexplicable reason, Ranger Bob always felt at home among the beavers.

Is there a doctor in the house?

By Iris Sanderson Jones
contributing travel editor

When I caught my finger in a heavy hotel door on Padre Island, Texas, a friend drove me to a local clinic for stitches.

When I overindulged on clams last fall in Ireland, I suffered all night and went to see a pharmacist in the morning.

When a centipede bit me while I was sleeping in a pup tent in the Himalayas, the desk clerk in my Kathmandu hotel called an English-speaking doctor. Do I spend all my travel time in medical crisis? Absolutely not, but it does occasionally happen, and I have had a lot of questions recently from travelers who worry about it. Most of their questions are in the "what do I do if . . ." department.

What you do "if" may be the same thing you do at home — suffer a little, try to get by with medications at hand, or go to a doctor. Sometimes the problem is with a traveling companion, in my case

with my photographer/husband Micky Jones.

When Micky put his foot out a car door in Mexico before the car

was fully stopped, he found a local doctor, bought a pair of crutches and carried on. When he broke his tooth on a bread roll in Yugosla-

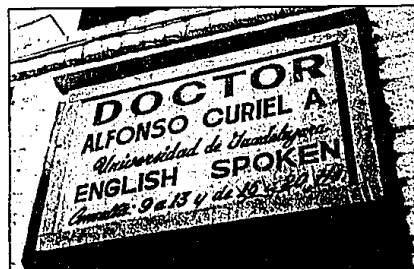
via, the hotel clerk sent him to a local clinic in Dubrovnik.

The moral of the story may be "don't worry, you can cope." But you can do more than that. Smart travelers do a little advance homework.

YOUR COUNTY health department will give you the information you need about required or recommended immunization (there aren't many) or you can make an appointment with a medical facility like Interhealth, a service of the Department of Infectious Diseases at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak.

According to Dr. Jeffrey D. Rand, chief of infectious diseases at Beaumont and medical director of Interhealth, the risk of serious medical problems experienced by overseas travelers is very low. Most problems are not serious, and can be prevented.

Clients make office appointments at Interhealth either be-



MICKY JONES

The sign on a street in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, says it all for a sick traveler. The doctor speaks English.

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