

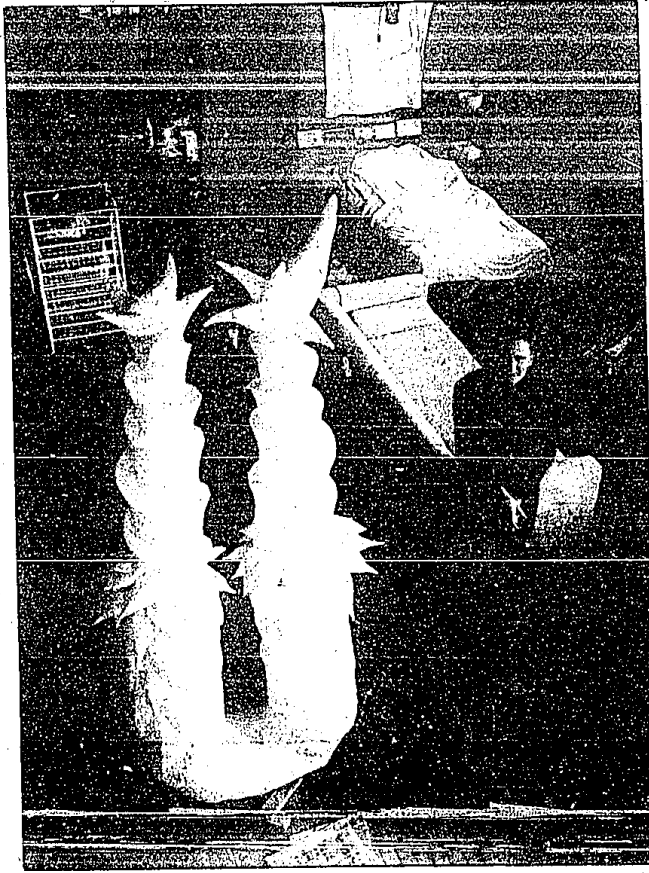
## On the waterfront

Come spring, the snowbirds migrate for as few short weeks to the warmer climates of the South. One of the main attractions is Daytona Beach, Fla. It seems to have everything — sun, sand, surf and fun . . . plenty of fun. But there's more to this warm "wonderland." Find out on Page 6D.

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

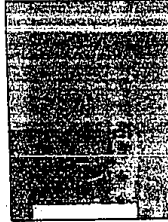
★ ★ 10

# STREET SCENE



David Marion's loft studio reflects a true Bohemian artist's lifestyle.

photos by JIM FUDERVAT/staff photographer



Discarded items become works of art in the hands of artist Albert Young.



Jeff Hale's "future relics" are created by smashing wheel-thrown, bisque-fired pots and then gluing them back together.

## In search of a 'loft-y' lifestyle

By Carol Axizian  
staff writer

David Marion's loft/studio is a picture of Bohemian bliss.

A frayed hand-me-down couch, antique coffee table and 1950s art deco chair rest on the hardwood floor. A jungle of plants lines the large windows. Blue jeans and a leather jacket hang from fluorescent lights. A Mexican blanket shields sunlight in one part of the room. A delapidated picnic table serves as a dining area.

And, an 8-foot-tall sculpture, reminiscent of the anthropomorphic plant in the film, "Little Shop of Horrors," towers like a skyscraper in the middle of his inner city pad.

"It's definitely a Bohemian atmosphere," said Marion, 25, a former Bloomfield Hills resident. "My

sisters who live in the 'burbs are real impressed with my place."

Not all suburbanites would envy Marion's lifestyle. But many artists dream of living in New York-style lofts — far from cookie-cutter subdivisions and strip malls.

They fantasize about renting inexpensive, roomy studios and apartments that allow them to work and play — and make a mess without worrying about what the neighbors will think.

SEVERAL suburban Detroit artists have made this dream a reality. They've packed up their belongings and moved downtown — to a 30,000-square-foot Catholic school building in the West Village near Indian Village.

Sue Wenrick, formerly of Oak Park, bought the building a little over a year ago. She rented out all

18 of the large classrooms — for \$250 a month each — and already has a waiting list of nearly 20 applicants.

"I heard the church (St. Charles Catholic) was going to tear down the school, but they apparently couldn't come up with the \$68,000 to do that," Wenrick explained.

She took one look at it and purchased it for \$40,000. "It was a steal," she said.

Wenrick believes her timing is right on target. "This is a hot development area (near Harbor Town and Belle Isle) It will bring in more people with money to buy art."

Similar artist colonies are cropping up in Eastern Market, the Woodbridge area and on Jefferson near Belle Isle, Wenrick noted.

She's in the process of setting up a non-profit cor-

poration called St. Charles Common Ground of the Arts.

"The artists will lease space from me and participate in getting loans and foundation grants," said Wenrick, a former member of Common Ground for the Arts in the Cass Corridor. "We'll eventually jury new artists who come in and also function as a gallery."

A grand opening for the artists cooperative is planned 6-9 p.m. Saturday, April 29, at the St. Charles school building, Baldwin and St. Paul in Detroit. A party follows.

WENRICK hopes to restore the exterior of the building and create a park and sculpture garden in the surrounding vacant lots.

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### Warp Factor

Karlos Barney



"It's embarrassing enough without having to advertise my problem to the whole world."

## Finding picture perfect potties

By Brian Lysaght  
staff writer

At school, they called Julie Jeffrey the "Porta-John Queen."

They made rotten jokes and bad puns, all because of a class project that was . . . well . . . creative, just like it was supposed to be.

Jeffrey, a third-year student at Center for Creative Studies, took the portable toilet as the subject of a school photographic project.

"I will try to elevate the Porta-John to a higher level of importance. Porta-John as art," Jeffrey wrote in an essay. "I want the viewer to concentrate on the shape, form and color of each Porta-John, thus realizing the sculptural qualities of the structure."

The 22-year-old fine arts photographer from Huntington Woods spent about four months searching out and photographing portable toilets. She took photographs in Plymouth, Detroit and along the construction zone of the I-596 freeway in Oakland County.

She said she found it difficult to explain to construction workers what exactly she was doing. The workers were good-natured but skeptical, she said.

To them, a Porta-John ain't art.

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ART EMANUELE/staff photographer

Julie Jeffrey, at student at the Center for Creative Studios sought to "force the viewer to look at the Porta-John

as art instead of a functional structure." Her work drew some stares, she said.