# Dentists aim to rid kids of fear, cavities

By Rebocca Haynes staff writer

by Resocce Haynes staff writer to the dentist sends your child to the dentist could be doing something with the dentist could be doing something with the dentist of the dentist in Bloomfield Hills. "If children are approached in the right manner, they shouldn't be afraid to come. "Many times an adult who's scared of the dentist can unknowing! pass along that fear to their child. It's very subtle," he said, "Also, in his area we have a lot of problems with children being overprepared for heir visit here. Parents are trying to do their best and oftentimes they'll read a book with their child shout going to the dentist to get them ready.

When the child gets here if everything decen't go exactly like it did in the book it can be upsetting." he said, "We try to intercept this sort of thing and let the parents know that we'll handle it. It's what we're trained to do."

Smith said he went into pediatric dentistry because he related much better to children than to adults, at least in the dental chair. The speciality has been recognized since 1943 and does require extra training past the standard dental school curriculum.

"IN THIS state, anyone who claims to be a specialist must take a separate licensing cram," he said, adding that there are 60 pediatric dentists licensed to practice in the state of Michigan. "A lot of our training is centered on caring for the handleapped and bables and for handling special problems, but a great deal of our practice revolves around taking care of normal kids."

Smith practices with Dr. Lloyd H. Straffon. The two are charter members of the Michigan Academy of Pediatric Dentistry and Straffon is on the faculty of the University of Michigan's dental school.

Michigan's dental school.

"We're really just like pediatricians," said Straffon, who began his
career as a general dentist before
deciding to specialize in pediatric
dentistry. "For me, it's very enjoyable to watch a child grow and mature and I think one of the best
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Both doctors say they work together to relate to a child and aren't discouraged by one who may fall apart on a normal visit.

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"THE PERSON we're most concerned about is the child, not the parent." Straffon said. "Parents sometimes worry too much about bringing their child in, especially for the first visit. They're very concerned that the child won't behave or won't cooperate. It's not the end of the world if they don't."

There's no way every child is going to march cooperatively into the dentist's office, Smith said, stressing again that parents should et them handle these situations, making the children feel comfortable.

"We try to build on positive things that happen and look for anything we realcitrant child." Smith said, "Children love rules and they love to be praised when they follow them. We have several simple rules that are explained to them at the start like keeping their mouth open or keeping their hands down."

The doctors also have a rule that parents don't speak in the examining room unless they're addressed specifically.

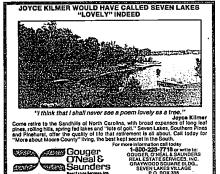
Another problem often happens if the child has a cavity. Both doctors say they never use the word shot and they work things in a way that the child doesn't usually even see the needle. The injection, which is de-scribed to them as a pinch, is over before they know it.

"WE USE a local anesthetic and we know the discomfort they feel with an injection is very tolerable," Straffon said, adding they prefer using anesthesia, even for minor work, because the discomfort with the injection is much less than any potential discomfort from drilling or other dental work.

"Parents and children seem to see decay as failure." Smith said. "They become upset over a little problem and a lot of times the decay was something that couldn't be helped, it's often caused by a default in the tooth."

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"Having the opportunity to relate to a child at ix month intervals is critical, even though each time they are fresh, especially if the may not need anything more than a groutine cleaning," he said. "It makes







The Four Lads perform in a benefit for the Agape Smiles Foundation at 7:30 p.m Aug. 19 in Novi High School.

## Belgrave ensemble to perform July 30

Marcus Belgrave and Phase II will perform at 7 p.m. Sunday, July 30 in the amphilheater on the grounds of The Community Center, on Farmington Road north of 10 Mile. The gates open at 6 p.m. for those who wish to plenic before the performance.

Belgrave, an internationally acclaimed trumpet player and the jazz ensemble, incorporates improvisative musical extravaganza. Belgrave has spent the last 15 years promoting better the performance of the per



### Swim-a-thon helps research

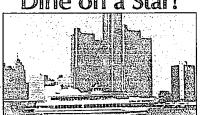
CMI Health & Tennis Club, South-field, hosts a Juvenile Diabetes Foundation Swim-Thon on Saturday, Aug. 5. The all-day event raises mon-ey for diabetes research.

Swimmers gather pledges in advance for each lap they plan to complete. Prizes will be awarded to those raising the most money for di-

abetes rescarch. All participants receive a complimentary one-week CMI membership and an official swim-a-thon T-shir. Live bands will perform in the pool area beginning at noon. Free re-freshments available to all partici-pants. For details, call the Juvenile Dia-betes Foundation at 589-6171.



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### Benefit hosts the Four Lads

The Agape Smiles Foundation presents the Four Lads, a popular singing group of the 1950s, in a benefit concert at 7.30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 19, in Novi High School. Mike Whorf

The Agape Smiles Foundation is a non-profit group providing free en-tertainment to seniors throughout the year in nursing homes and senior citizen residences. They offer pro-grams in 65 facilities in 25 metropol-tian area communities including Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Tickets are \$25 and are tax deductible. They can be obtained by calling 473-1172 or writing the foundation at 41390 W. 10 Mile Road, Novi 48050.

#### Photo show to aid center

A summer photography competition and show to benefit Common Ground is sponsored by Homestead Gallery of Walfed Lake, Meteor Photo, Key Tours, David Wachier and Sons Jewellers and Century Camera. Monte Nagler, Observer & Eccentric photo columnist, will judge the black-and-white and color categories.

An opening reception for the show, which features top photos from the competition as well as Nagler's works, begins at 8 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 25, in the gallery, 136 S. Pontiac Trail. For details about the show or the contest, call Homestead Gal-lery at 669-8980.

A percentage of the proceeds from the opening reception will benefit Common Ground, a crisis interven-tion center based in Royal Oak. It has served the Detroit area for more

#### Textile artist exhibits work

Beatrice Shulman discovered she liked to sew when she was 3 years old. Through the years, her hobby became an art and her art attracted notice.

Shulman, a textile artist, uses variety of material in her work.

"If I don't get into my studio-a-couple of times a week I get a bit-irritable," says the Farmington Hills resident.

Her work in reverse applique recently placed in the top 10 at a textile art show in London, Ontar-

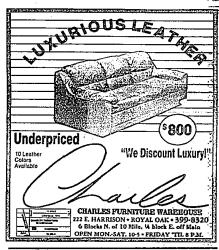
It will be shown along with her other work Aug. 6-31 at the exhib-it gallery on the Madonna College campus on Schoolcraft at Levan, Livonia, Gallery hours are 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 1-5 p.m. Friday.

Her original works employ such media as Chinese silk and metal, applique and reverse ap-plique, quilting and a Guatemalan technique called mola. Much of her work features hand dyed cloth

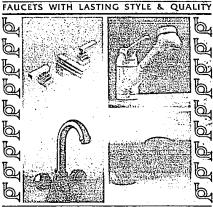
She's active in the Needlework and Textile Guild of Michigan and the Canadian Embroiderers Guild.She's exhibited her work at the Farmington Community Li-

Intent on broadening her skills, she's studying water color at Ma-donna College. Her work has the support of her three grown chil-dren and her husband. One of her seer is always a satisfact. sons is also an artist.

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