

STREET SCENE

Inside **S²**
Paid his dues

When he was a child, Peter Pilotsky used to practice the classic opening of the "Dick Van Dyke Show" tripping act to perfection. Today, Pilotsky has become the prince of pratfalls, performing his schtick in comedy clubs, which catches most audiences by surprise. Find out more about the comedian on Page 5D.

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Leah Marilana Murray is a veteran of the Detroit auto show. She enjoys the work because of the "most interesting people" she gets to meet.

My mother the car . . . lady

Aging didn't creep up on me; it jumped me from behind. One night unbeknownst to me — while I slept — they invaded. First the mouth, then the eyes, and they worked their way up to my forehead. All the while I'm in sweet slumber, wrinkles were robbing me of my youth. I can name the day — Oct. 12, 1989. I'll never forget it. I sat down to put my makeup on as I've done every morning for roughly 20 years. I don't mean I

abuse my makeup, I mean . . . oh, you know what I mean. . . I looked into my mirror and screamed in horror. Not only had wrinkles taken up permanent residency like some early squatters refusing to leave their land, the skin under my eyes had changed. Little bumps appeared on that ever so tender, darkening (even as I write) tissue. "Not now," I lamented. I would truly be the matron of the circuit now.

The circuit I speak of is the auto show. Yes, this year, 15 years after it had been my biggest dream, I was going to be an auto show girl. (Can you be one of the girls when your daughter is as old as some of these babes?) I have to say that timing has never been one of my strong points.

My goals had changed over the years, but mother love stepped in and con-

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Auto show: 'Model not included'

By Greg Kowalski
staff writer

"Do you come with the car?"
(How clever.)
"Do you get dizzy up there?"
(So witty.)
"Are you wearing underwear?"
(Yes, but you'll never see it.)

These are some of the questions (and unspoken answers) that routinely bombard models at auto shows like the North American International Auto Show being held through Sunday, Jan. 14, at Cobo Hall in Detroit.

For most of us, the models stand on pedestals, symbols of glamour and untouchable beauty.

Gorgeous women all, they sing the praises of Pontiacs, the finer lines of Fords, the beauties of Buicks and all the other vehicles at the Detroit Auto Show.

They are also hard working young professionals bound together by a common thread of ambition, determination and good looks.

People often tend to view the models as window dressing and — even they admit — air heads.

"People think we have no brains," Sonna Johns said flatly. Johns has brains, so much so that she will shortly have her own cable TV show syndicated to several local communities.

Elizabeth Puelo doesn't fit the model stereotype either. She graduated from the University of Michigan with a bachelor of arts degree in communications.

Leah Marilana Murray is a student at Eastern Michigan University. Jamie Lynne Kolodziej attends Henry Ford Community College and has a cable TV show in Westland.

All are graduates of the John Roberts Power modeling school in Southfield and are working at the Detroit Auto Show. And all are veteran auto show models.

AT THIS point, it would be dramatic to say they have the little scars to prove their experience. In reality, the scars are limited to their feet, from standing all day on three-inch heels.

And in reality, modeling IS glamorous.

"You get to meet the most interesting people," Murray said. For her, that includes late night TV talk show host David Letterman.

Recently, Murray won the title of Miss Auto Show in New York, one of the nation's largest shows. Her prize included a guest spot on Letterman's show. It was a great break for Murray, an aspiring actress.

John's brush with a celebrity came in a different fashion.

"At one show, this guy kept coming up to me," she said. "I thought 'Is he trying to put the make on me?'"

She politely brushed him off, but later noticed that people flocked around the man asking for his autograph. The man was Chicago Bears football star Walter Payton.

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Not only an auto show model, Jamie Lynne Kolodziej attends Henry Ford Community College and has a cable TV show in Westland.

Have look, will model

By Greg Kowalski
staff writer

How do you become an auto show model? First, of course, you have to be model material. That doesn't necessarily mean you have to be a "beanpole" fashion model type, but you have to have looks, charm and sophistication.

You're born with looks, but the other qualities are refined at modeling schools.

Several are in the metropolitan Detroit area. These include the John Roberts Power modeling school in Southfield, which is supplying several models for the North American International Auto Show now through Sunday at Cobo Hall in Detroit.

The schools, which often also serve as modeling agencies, charge in the area of \$50 a week for a course that runs four to seven months. Once a model graduates, he (there are plenty of male models) or she becomes part of the agency's roster.

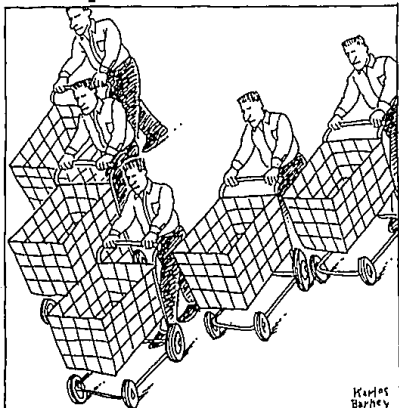
APPROXIMATELY 30 auto shows take place nationally each year. Generally, the automakers call the schools/agencies to acquire models.

The models go to auditions — or "cattle calls" as they unfatteringly say — which

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R.U. Syrius

Karlos Barney



The Blue Angels go shopping.

One Man's Budget Guide to London

First of two parts

By Micky Jones
special writer

Are you ready for a winter vacation, one that doesn't include sandy beaches or snowy hills? Have you been avoiding a trip to Europe because of all those stories you hear about sky-high prices?

How about a low-cost winter vacation in London, typically considered one of the world's high-priced travel destinations? You don't need warm sunny days to enjoy most of London's attractions.

From now until early April, you can do London for half the cost of a similar trip in June or July, and you won't be standing in long lines of summer tourists from all over the world.

I recently spent several days in London at a cost of less than \$70 a day for accommodations, meals, city transportation and entertainment. Including air fare from Detroit, it is possible to have a week in the Royal City for between \$800-\$900, or two weeks for \$1,200-\$1,300. A one-week vaca-



There's plenty of night life to sample in London and on place to start is Piccadilly Circus.

tion includes only six full days and nights in London because one night and most of a day is spent in the air. Here is a step-by-step guide to

the kind of advance planning that saves money:

(1) Buy budget air fare. Six airlines are currently quoting \$378 round-trip weekday fares, plus \$26

tax, between Detroit and London. There is a surcharge, if you must travel weekends.

Tickets must be purchased at least 30 days prior to departure and no later than Feb. 1. Travel must be completed by late March or early April, depending on the airline. Tickets are non-refundable.

THE MOST convenient flights are on Pan American and British Airways which don't require a change of planes. British Airways quotes a fare \$20 higher than the others, but says it makes up the difference with free movies, free drinks and lower taxes.

American Airlines requires a plane change in Dallas, Continental in Newark. On TWA, you change planes, and sometimes terminals, in New York. Northwest flies into London's less-convenient Gatwick Airport instead of Heathrow.

(2) Apply for a passport during the 30-day wait between ticket purchase and flight time. If you

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