

# Kids, animals, good photos



Pete Lederer's keep eye and ready camera enabled him to record this unrehearsed moment of child and animal interaction.

Two of the most photographed subjects are children and animals. Both offer numerous photo opportunities that will pay off with exciting pictures.

How about combining them? After all, any time children and animals get together, humorous and heartwarming happenings are likely to follow.

Getting them together is rarely difficult since kids and animals naturally gravitate toward one another. The adventures and sometimes misadventures of kids and pets always have the potential for good shots.

**BUT YOU** have to be watching and be prepared to capture the spontaneous moment of action or reaction. This means having your camera loaded with film, the lens on you want and, if you don't have an automatic camera, your exposure pre-set.

In the photo shown here, Birmingham resident Peter Lederer's camera was set and ready when two animal-loving kids couldn't resist offering a morning snack to a hungry elk. Pete's spontaneous shot, enhanced by the "do not feed" sign, captures a delightful moment on film.

You can even set up some possibilities for potentially good kid/pet photos. How about having the youngsters give the shaggy dog a much-



photography

Monte Nagler

needed shampoo or "dress up" the reluctant kitten or play with that elusive frog?

Take your kids to a petting zoo where they can interact with farm animals. A toddler feeding an apple to a pony or recollecting from a surprise face licking can produce a cherished family snapshot.

**BUT WHATEVER** the situation, allow the children to become involved with the animals before bringing out your camera. Don't be too overt in trying to set up a pose or you'll lose the impulsiveness of the moment.

## Author to speak

The Women's Resource Center of Schoolcraft College is offering a free four-part series entitled "An Inside Look at Michigan Authors" 7-9 p.m. Thursday evenings, beginning Feb. 8 in upper Waterman Campus Center.

On Feb. 8, "Romance Writing — Is It All Champagne, Kisses and Caviar Dreams?" will be the topic presented by Ruth Ryan Langan, author of historical and contemporary novels. Langan has appeared on the Phil Donahue Show and Good Morning America.

Attendance is free and no registration is required. For further information, call 462-4413.



artifacts  
David  
Messing

# Letting 'you' shine through art work

Did you ever go to a live concert and see a female performer pick out some frumpy guy in the audience, then sing a love song to him?

Well, I was "Mr. Frump" not long ago. We were so close that my shoulder was touching the stage, and the singer's dress was so short I was afraid to look up at her.

Then I heard those awful words, "Hey, you're cute. Stand up and let's talk."

It was 10 kinds of misery. She blew kisses to me, sang love songs — looking me right in the eye. I thought I would die of embarrassment.

Somehow I managed to enjoy the show, however. That is one star I will never forget.

That night we were entertained by four performers and all were very good (except for the one I just mentioned), but one star particularly stood out from all the others.

She — like all the others — possessed an ability worthy of her hire. But she alone by the sincerity of her performance introduced herself to all of us and we all were thrilled to meet her.

**I THOUGHT** to myself, how beautiful are the arts. Whether singing, acting, writing, painting, dancing, sculpting, sketching or rhythming, the expression to express is a God-given gift.

But given equal ability, what sets

the expression of one above the expression of another? Is the performance we viewed unlike a poem that steals your breath away, or the actor whose performance catches hold of your emotions?

Is the affinity we felt with that singer much different from a chunk of marble, tenderly shaped into an image that evokes our expression of awe?

No, all artists possess the potential to share not just their ability but their spirit.

**THAT SHARING** of the spirit is what sets your particular art above the art of those merely going through the motions.

It is odd that you can struggle much of your life to acquire and perfect your ability and then by its ease of handling forget to ever share yourself — the person behind the ability.

Since ability only means "able to," then as a competent artist, your work should show what you intend it should.

If you, therefore, set out with the intention to impress your audience with technical skill, you would then be like the talented performers we viewed who merely "did their thing" and left with the applause.

David Messing is an area art teacher who also owns the Art Store & More in Livonia.

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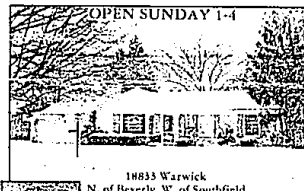
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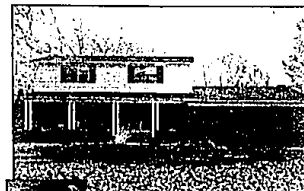
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