

SUBURBAN LIFE

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THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 1992



DENISE LUCAS

Having a ball at Grand Prix

To enlighten Social Eyes with information on upcoming events involving Greater West Bloomfield Lakes, Farmington and Southfield area residents, call 442-2339 or mail information to The Eclectic, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.

It's a race that runs neck and neck each year — the attendance record to the annual Grand Prix. Ball vs. the supporters who flock to the annual Detroit Auto Show Preview Night. These are two of Detroit's favorite black tie fund-raisers that attract the Motor City's auto industry leaders and local auto enthusiasts alike.

The impressive turnout of 1,000-plus people at a \$300-per-head ticket price for the ball indicates Detroit's love of Prix racing, a strong dedication to the arts — and possibly the end of the recession?

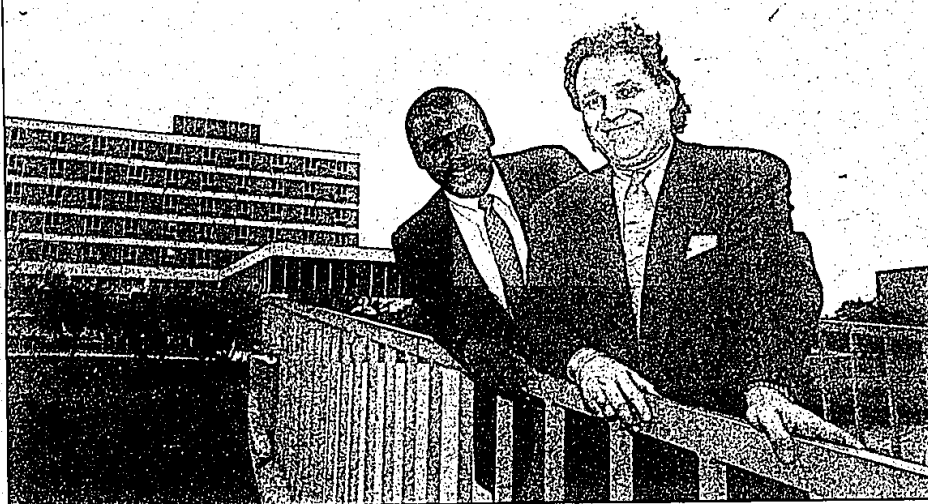
Bravo! The evening's benefit raised \$500,000 for the Music Hall in Detroit.

Phrase of the evening was "right on track." There was strong support and excitement regarding the Grand Prix's move to "the island," with a new, clean, fresh image for Detroit.

"This is the greatest track on the circuit," remarked Leonard Capaldi, Grand Prix track contractor. "It's the only track with no structures (like sewers) in the road. I'm sure the drivers would agree."

As guests entered the Westin Hotel at Detroit's Renaissance Center on Thursday night, models sporting race-car-driver jumpsuits directed guests to the third-level Renaissance Ballroom.

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JOHN STORME/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Just for kids: Curtis Davenport (left) and Shel Leshner look over Oakland University campus.

Summer camp to remember



A foundation to promote diversity and tolerance, with a summer camp for children that includes a session at Oakland University, has been established by Shel and Mary Leshner of West Bloomfield in memory of their son Mark, who died as a toddler.

By TIM CARVELL
STAFF WRITER

Shel Leshner knows it will happen. When the children arrive for the first

day of camp on July 6, "I know I'll break down and cry," he said.

For Leshner, the opening of the Mark Leshner Foundation 21st Century City/

Suburban Camp will mark the first accomplishment of a project which started just over a year ago.

On May 26, 1991, he and his wife Mary found that their 21-month-old son Mark had died in his sleep. Their funeral director suggested that they create a foundation to remember Mark and to ease their grief.

"The week my boy died, I worked on the project to keep sane," Leshner said.

The Leshners reflected upon their son's life and determined that the goal of the foundation should be to promote diversity and tolerance.

"When we thought about Mark, two things stood out: he loved people and he loved sports," Leshner said. The camp will integrate Mark's loves by using sports and games to increase interper-

See CAMP, 2C

Second honeymoon

Car, romance stay alive

By TIM CARVELL
STAFF WRITER

When Vernon and Nancy Schafer last stayed at the Mackinac Island Grand Hotel, the room cost \$11.55 per night. The pool was empty and

orange juice was outrageously overpriced at 25 cents.

That was in 1942, and the Schafers are returning to the hotel, the site of their honeymoon, later this month. The nightly two-person rate has climbed above \$300 for

even the smallest room, but there is some good news: not only have they managed to fill the pool, but hotel management said orange juice is now included in the price.

The Schafers' trek to the Grand Hotel is part of their 50th anniversary celebration, in which the Farmington couple will attempt to recreate as closely as possible their honeymoon.

How far will they go to duplicate the original? Vernon, who came up with the idea, is busily restoring the red 1939 Mercury convertible that they drove the first time around, preparing it for another drive up north.

Why is he going to all this trouble?

"That's a question that I can't answer," Nancy said, sounding a bit exasperated. "Why? So he can prove that he can fix a 50-year-old car? I don't know."

Vernon admits that he has been spending a good deal of time working on the car.

"My daughter-in-law said to me, 'If you don't stop working on the car, you'll have a divorce instead of a honeymoon,'" Vernon said. "Still, I think Nancy's pretty tolerant."

Indeed, Nancy doesn't have any objections. "Of course, I'm pleased," she said. "Any time an 80-year-old man shows an interest in romance, I'm pleased."

The second honeymoon will begin with brunch for a small group of friends, organized by the families of their son and daughter, on the exact date of their anniversary, June 27. The Schafers will leave the brunch in their convertible (license plate: R 50-T1D) to relive their post-nuptial journey through Michigan.

"We're going to start with the top down, so wish us good weather," Vernon said.

The idea for the trip arose a few years ago, when Vernon discovered a log which Nancy kept during their honeymoon, a log which gave a de-



Picture perfect: Vernon and Nancy Schafer were photographed with the car on their first date Aug. 4, 1940.



The Schafers today: Another Mackinac Island honeymoon is in the offing for Farmington couple.

See HONEYMOON, 2C

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