

# Writer accepts responsibility

## GRAPHOLOGY PROFILES



LORENE GREEN

Dear Lorene, After many years of enjoying your column, I have decided to have my handwriting analyzed. I am a 52-year-old female and I am right handed.

My handwriting hasn't changed much in the last 25 years, but prior to that, it changed somewhat every few years.

I was not very healthy as a child and spent a great deal of time in bed and would practice handwriting to pass the time.

Thank you for analyzing my handwriting.

K.G., Livonia

An extremely busy lady is portrayed in today's handwriting. Due to her many involvements she appears to be experiencing difficulty planning and organizing her daily routine. This might be a good time for her to out her values and bring her priorities into focus.

Our writer's self image has an inordinate amount of resentment and inflexibility in its foundation. Seemingly, she has been terribly hurt, possibly as far back as the teen years. She finds it virtually impossible to forgive and forget the source of her unhappiness. Continuing to carry this resentment causes tension and aggressive feelings on her part, however.

A very competitive nature can be seen here. She appears to be channeling subconscious energies into her work and daily activities. She is willing to accept responsibility to get where and what she wants from life. And she tends to feel she can do her job as well as, or better than anyone else.

People are absolutely essential to her feelings of well being. She

wants to be important, to be loved and to make her place in the sun. Seemingly, she needs above average levels of support from those around her. And while she appears to have an active social life, it also involves some tension on her part.

With all this activity and sociability she leans toward concealment and protection. While she adapts to the outside world, she rarely ever discloses her inner life.

Her thoughts are often dominated by her emotions. She is well acquainted with social mores and will generally conform to what is expected of her.

Feelings of security are very important to our writer. She does not willingly deviate from the tried and true and is inclined to stick with what she knows best. In totally new situations she may be somewhat uncomfortable, although others would not know it.

This is a woman of intelligence who perceives herself as being somewhat different than others. She may also think of herself in possession of special insights or truths. However, insight into her own personality may be somewhat limited.

This writer has an artistic sense of proportion. She is concerned with the way things look, and may have a preoccupation or delight in structures, forms and aesthetics. She is not without creativity. Her tastes probably lean toward the fancy as opposed to the plain.

A tad of humor weaves through her handwriting lending enjoyment to her life.

If you would like your handwriting analyzed in this newspaper, write to Lorene C. Green, a certified graphologist, at 36281 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. Please use a full sheet of white, unlined paper, writing in the first person singular. Age, handedness and full signature are also helpful. And objective feedback is always welcome.

*My handwriting has not changed much in the last 25 years, but prior to that, it changed somewhat every few years.*

## FASHION CALENDAR

### FRIDAY, AUG. 28

#### Trunk Show

Hersh's on the Boardwalk, 6901 Orchard Lake Road, south of Maple Road, will host a Babo Trunk Show. The manufacturers of hand-knit cotton and chenille sweaters will be featuring its Fall and Winter Collection. The Babo Trunk Show will be on display at Hersh's 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, Aug. 28; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 29; and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 30. Babo and Hersh's will present informal modeling at Stage & Co. Delicatessen also on the Boardwalk. For information, call 626-7776.

### WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 2

#### Chanel Collection

Saks Fifth Avenue, 2901 W. Big Beaver, Troy, will have its Chanel/Chanel Accessories Autumn '92 Collection on display 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 2-3, at the Chanel Boutique on

the Second Floor. For information, call 643-9000.

### THURSDAY, SEPT. 3

#### Luncheon mini-show

Saks Fifth Avenue, 2901 W. Big Beaver, Troy, will have a DKNY Autumn '92 Luncheon mini-show on the Third Floor at noon. Cost is \$6. Reservations are required. For information, call 643-9000, Ext. 317.

### TUESDAY, SEPT. 8

#### Seminars

Juday Invey, director of FYI of Hudson's personal shopping service, will present "Interpreting Your Options for Fall 1992." Wardrobe ideas and Fall trends will be highlighted. The seminars will take place 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 8, at Hudson's in Twelve Oaks and 6 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 9, at Hudson's in Oakland Mall. Cost is \$10. For reservations, call 443-6328.

## Program offers volunteer training

Volunteers are being recruited for a program that places trained volunteers in the homes of local families.

The program is provided by the Michigan State University Extension Service of Oakland County. Next training session begins Tuesday, Sept. 15. Call Sandy Cowell or Elaine Parada at 858-0895 for further information.

Parent Partnership volunteers provide friendship, support and information on raising children in today's society. Volunteers receive 18 hours of training in child development, discipline, communication, health education, nutrition, budgeting, self-esteem, developmental activities and community resources.

Volunteers are matched with a family and work with the family one or two hours per week for approximately six months.

## Travel from page 1C

In a brown-paneled, cloistered room off the upstairs of her Farmington Hills home, she is grounded for the time being in front of her Radio Shack computer. A small fan whirs, providing a scintilla of fresh air on a humid summer afternoon. The place is filled with snapshots and papers pertaining to her work. She's been a widow for three years.

Her travel writing started 20 years ago penning an article entitled, "How to Sell Your Wife on Camping." She laughs at the irony, especially since she was a woman already well-versed in the strategic art of roughing it outdoors.

"Twenty years ago, a wife didn't sell a husband on camping," she said. "So I wrote it backwards."

Scharfenberg continued to move forward, traveling by car around the shores of the Great Lakes in Michigan and in Ontario. She eventually wrote two guide books, "The Long Blue Edge of Ontario" and "The Long Blue Edge of Summer: A Guide to the Shores of Michigan," aptly depicting the vast, unfettered beauty surrounding the largest body of fresh water in the world.

### Michigan's best

Since then, Scharfenberg has been to Asia, South America and Europe. She said there's no place

like Michigan. "It's a good place to explore," she said. "You can find old ghost towns... It's outstanding beauty."

"You go through a birch forest with the sunlight pouring through or look across the lake and see the storm clouds forming, there's nothing like it."

For Scharfenberg, there's also nothing like travel. As she pushes her glasses back up her nose, she tells of her adventures along the way.

She animatedly recalls a skittering 20-minute plane ride to Juneau, Ala., seemed to take 20 hours. Then there's a mention how an orangutan came swinging right at her on an expedition in Borneo.

"My heart made medical history," she said.

The closest call came on a hiking trip to Lava Falls. Scharfenberg was about to board a raft when she slipped and fell into the raging river with no life jacket.

"It's sandy, so I couldn't even see my hand," she said, recalling the incident from five years ago. "Because I had my backpack, it brought me back up. I felt the underside of the raft. Then I felt the steel of the outboard motor."

She grabbed ahold and someone was able to pull her out. Such bouts of trepidation haven't deterred Scharfenberg from tackling other traveling adventures.

Renee Mahler is a gerontologist and the director of communications and admission at a Rochester Hills nursing facility. She is a former member of the Michigan State Commission on Services to the Aging. Send your questions to her at The Observer & Eccentric, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.

## Be careful buying a 'living trust kit'

### ON AGING



RENEE MAHLER

Q. My wife and I have been called by a salesman who wants to sell us a kit that he says will save us probate court costs when we die. Do you know anything about these kits?

A. Michigan Attorney General Frank Kelley, along with Fred Woodworth, president of the State Bar of Michigan, and Nancy Crandall, director of the Michigan Office of Services to the Aging, have recently issued a warning to older adults to be extremely careful of companies offering "living trust kits," which can cost up to \$2,500 each. Two companies operating in Michigan have already received notices of intended action from the Attorney General's Office. These companies are the Senior Citizens Information Center and the American Association for Senior Citizens. According to the notices, sales representatives use false and misleading statements to sell the expensive kits via mail and telephone solicitations and in-home presentations. The salesmen allegedly tell seniors that probate costs may take more than 10 percent of their estate and can be avoided by purchasing the kit. Actually, typical Michigan probate costs are less than 10 percent of an estate's value.

While just two companies have received notices of intended action, Attorney General Kelley has said he believes there may be other companies taking advantage of older citizens' probate concerns. The following is a consumer checklist that should help you to decide if you are being solicited by a fraudulent company:

1. Be wary when a salesperson tells you the kit he or she is offering will solve all your estate problems.
2. Check the price of the kit against the price of the same service offered by local attorneys.
3. Make sure that promises of savings are based on Michigan probate costs and laws. Probate costs and attorney fees vary greatly from state to state and even from court to court within the state.
4. A kit is not tailored for the customer's particular circumstances. If the salesperson promises the services of an attorney to review documents, get the name of the attorney and check to see if he or she is licensed to practice in Michigan. You can call your local bar association.
5. Do not provide personal and confidential family and financial information to a salesperson. Meet with the attorney to discuss your circumstances.
6. If the salesperson says part of the cost of the kit pays the lawyer's fee, do not buy. Michigan attorneys are not allowed to split fees with salespersons.
7. Find out if there is a way to get a refund if you are not satisfied. Get

"Old age can be as exciting as possible," she said. "I think I have a message for people over 50. I think Auntie Mame said, 'Life is a banquet and there is always some poor fools starving to death.'"



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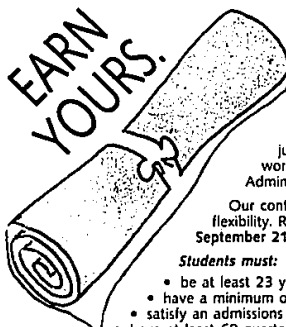
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