

SUBURBAN LIFE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1992

THE SCENE



GRETCHEN HITCH

Many parties fill weekend calendar

Gretchen Hitch's column *The Scene* alternates with Denise Lucas' column *Social Eyes*. To leave a message for Hitch, from a touch-tone phone, call 953-2047, Ext. 1385. Material for *The Scene* may be mailed to Hitch at 645 Kimberly, Birmingham 48009, or you may call her at 646-5277.

The Night of Brilliance for the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation on Friday vied for attendance with Kingswood's Giftorama. On Saturday evening it was Night Under the Stars VIII for the Detroit Institute of Arts and the President's Ball at Bloomfield Open Hunt as well as the club's 75th anniversary.

At Night Under the Stars, 700 people attended the full evening of festivities at \$400 or \$300 per person, while 150 of the younger crowd came for dessert, drinks and dancing at \$76 per person. The black-tie throng meandered throughout the DIA's courtyards and galleries.

The head-turning award would go to Elizabeth Stopera in a peacock blue velvet gown with a cape fashioned of peacock feathers. Designer James Cape, who escorted Stopera, said it took him two years to make the ensemble, mainly to gather enough peacock feathers for the cape, which featured a train effect.

Another major topic of conversation was the incredibly enormous Madame Pompadour roses used by floral designer Jerry Earles. A major supporter of the evening, Melissa Sage Booth of the Chicago area, admired the roses as she chatted with DIA director Sam Sachs and his wife Beth. Sachs sported a dandy black cane with gold knob, due to his recent hip replacement. "Very successful. Now, the other hip," Sachs said with a smile. At 6:30 p.m. the Under the Stars committee and corporate sponsors arrived in the first flurry of snow for "Art of Romance," as the evening was named by chairwomen Jill Williams and Aviva Robinson of Bloomfield Hills.

At the 6:30 p.m. reception we saw Sandy and Rosanne Duncan talking about the Thanksgiving Day Parade, of which Sandy is president. Rosanne noted it was the 66th parade and the third Hob Nubble Gobble, in Cobo Hall on Thanksgiving eve, to benefit the Parade Co.

The romantic decor was present in each of the galleries where guests amid candlelight, with the large, pink Madam Pompadour roses centering tables covered in layers of lace cloths. Candelabra were entwined with ivy on the tables.

A corps of more than 20 car-parkers handled the rush of arrivals.

Proceeds promise to top last year's \$150,000. Honorary co-chairman and co-chairwoman Lee and Darrion Iacocca did not appear, as they were in California.

Since its beginning in 1980, Under the Stars has raised more than \$1.4 million for the DIA's general operating fund. It is particularly needed now, with reduced staff and hours, due to budget cuts.

Evening of Brilliance

"Make Diabetes Disappear" was the theme for a magical Evening of Brilliance on Friday at the Ritz-Carlton, Dearborn.

Co-chairs Jane and Robert Cobb talked with various children present who either have diabetes or have the disease in their families.

Jane said later in the program, "I welcome you to the Evening of Brilliance. Diabetes stole my sight over 20 years ago. Your JDF contribution can help the condition from this insidious disease from happening to many others." Robert remarked, "As the husband of a diabetic, I have thought about diabetes every day since I met Jane over 15 years ago." He added, "JDF is my hope for the future."

Honorary co-chairman and co-chairwomen were Don and Val Bortz, John and Rita Haddow and Ken Meade. Helping sell \$100 chances to win \$10,000 were Millie Pastor and Vicki Kulis. Bortz and Millie took time out to admire the impressive Ski-Doo watercraft on display as part of the silent auction. Even two Northwest Airline

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GRETCHEN HITCH

Night of magic: Vicki Kulis (left) sells \$100 raffle ticket to John and Annette Kolon. More than 600 guests attended night to "Make Diabetes Disappear."

Classy dressing Teacher likes the professional look

For the classroom, this college teacher dresses up. Away from school, he often dresses down. But regardless of the scene, William Alexander of Farmington Hills is always well dressed.

BY ETHEL SIMMONS
STAFF WRITER

English professor William Alexander is pleased that he was asked to be the subject of *Off the Cuff*, our monthly feature about an individual who dresses with flair.

"We all have vanity," said the Farmington Hills resident, who teaches at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills. But, he added, "I

OFF THE CUFF

don't see anything extraordinary about the way I dress or the way I am."

For the interview, Bill Alexander's business attire was accentuated by a necktie that is in keeping with his profession. The attractive silk tie has a subtle pattern showing the covers of classic books. "My daughter gave it to me," he said.

The gray-haired, trimly mustached Alexander wears his clothes with distinction. Unlike some teachers, as well as students, who opt for casual dress on campus, he prefers to maintain a more businesslike appearance.

"I usually wear a suit, or sport coat, and tie. They no longer have a dress code for students or faculty. I'm one of the few who dresses up," he explained.

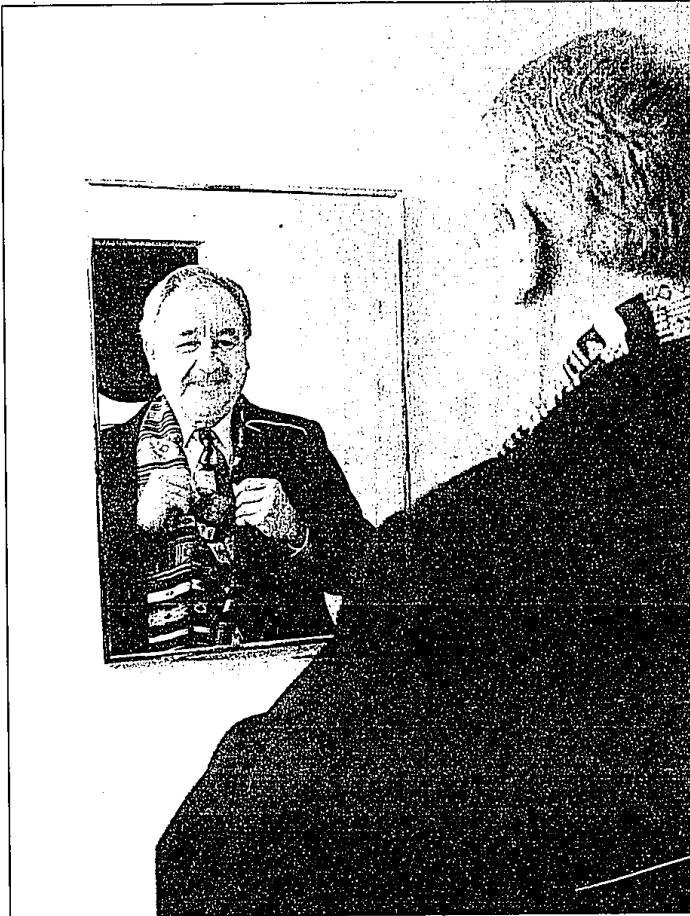
Alexander has been teaching a little more than 30 years. "I've been at the college for 23 years," he said. "I'm the oldest person in the English Department." Currently he teaches English literature and English composition I.

He acknowledges that some teachers, "You will see them in sweaters and slacks." But that's not his style. "My professors all dressed this way in the old school. I think it gives the student more confidence in the teacher. It creates a certain businesslike atmosphere in the classroom."

Alexander is neither stuffy nor stodgy, despite his preference for a more formal way of dressing on campus. He loves fast cars and drives a silver Porsche. Away from school, he prefers dressing casually.

For his classroom attire throughout the year, Alexander estimates he has

See FASHION, 2H



Bill Brusek/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dressed to go: In his topcoat, William Alexander adjusts scarf, getting ready to leave his Farmington Hills apartment. Necktie has pattern of book covers.

Women at seminar swap sex-bias stories

BY ETHEL SIMMONS
STAFF WRITER

Trading stories about business situations where men treated women in an inappropriate way made for a lively break time during the first session of the "Professional Women of the '90s" seminar series.

Birmingham resident Karen Clark Anderson, who conducted the session all-day Thursday at the Townsends Hotel in Birmingham, asked the 24 women and one man who attended to exchange stories about sex bias. The man in the group also had stories to tell about women who took advantage of male employees.

In most cases, however, it was clearly the men in the situations cited who had the upper hand — at least until the women they challenged set them straight. Speaker Anderson started the group off by telling them about "The \$10 million blunder."

She explained the blunder was caused by "men who didn't take women seriously." A Minnesota advertising agency had presented a program where sexist language was used, and when a woman who objected wrote a letter of complaint to the agency, she was subjected to ridicule in the form of a crudely worded letter of response.

The women got the Minnesota Women's Consortium to back her, and copies of all the correspondence were sent to the agency's major advertisers. One of the advertisers, who was very supportive of women, canceled its \$10 million dollar account.

During the seminar break, Joyce Shuert of Bloomfield Hills followed up with her own story, telling tales about an incident involving Shuert Industries in Sterling Heights, the company she and her husband run.

A group including the Shuerts had gone to look at a building they were considering renting. "The salesman gave everyone a brochure but me. My husband said, 'You just lost the sale. She's the financial person in the company.'"

For his classroom attire throughout the year, Alexander estimates he has

tus Report" was the first of four sessions on "Professional Women of the '90s." Other sessions to be presented by Anderson include "Stress Management for Women" on Jan. 21, "Developing Personal Power and Professional Impact" on Feb. 27 and "The Secret to Working Successfully with Others" on March 25.

Each session may be attended independently and costs \$79. For more information contact Anderson at Women, Unlimited, 644-0037.

When Shuert was asked why she had decided to attend the seminar, she replied, "I like to look for self-improvement. We have 10 females in the office, and women in the manufacturing plant. I just like to keep abreast of things."

Arlene Maberry of Troy, a secretary in the purchasing department of TRW Vehicle Safety Systems in Washington, Mich., said she came to the seminar because, "I thought it was an interesting topic. I think women have to learn to network."

Northville resident Judy Lombardo, who is manager of labor relations administration at the Ryder Automotive Carrier Division in Troy, said she was attending because, "We're interested in what's out there helping women in the business world that we can take back and help our co-workers."

Seminar leader Anderson is an expressive speaker, who has a warm, sincere manner, and uses a lot of hand gestures. She draws her audience toward her, as she talks about problems women face in the workplace.

Anderson pointed out, "There is often surface respect toward women." The agency that made the \$10 million blunder had women in management and outwardly had appeared to be a progressive agency, she said. "How many times is there a subtle idea that your idea isn't welcome?" she asked.

The speaker then talked about things women can do to influence change and provide doors of opportunity for the next generation. Parents raise boys

and girls differently and, "Boys have had a lifetime of criticism and teamwork. They're prepped for the old boy network. Be aware of the messages you send to your own child," she said.

In the afternoon portion of the session, Anderson talked about "the terrific businesses out there and the programs they have in place to help women — flexible job schedules, parental leave for men and women — for children and adult care, the option of working at home, and corporate help in finding care for young people."



STEPHEN CASTELL/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Status report: Karen Clark Frederick of Birmingham conducts seminar on "Women and Power."