

SUBURBAN LIFE

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Ugly faces of war won't die

When people think about a war - the images of dead and wounded, blood-stained streets, half-bombed cars in ditches, collapsed houses, babies crying, and men fighting for their country - they form a picture of human suffering and pain.

This is the face of war that most of us are familiar with, through a filtered media interpretation. But there are other faces of war known to thousands who live it and who come close enough to understand them.

More than three years have passed since the Croatian city of Vukovar was reduced to rubble by a powerful Serbian war machine, and 5,000 of its citizens still remain missing. The once prosperous town of 50,000 became a symbol of the Croatian struggle to defend its independence toward freedom and democracy.

The world does not remember Vukovar, nor does it recall the destruction of Dubrovnik and Zadar or the thousands of Croats killed in one of the cruelest and bloodiest wars of Croatian history. The war in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the long siege of Sarajevo captured the world's sympathy and consciousness.

The Serbian aggressor used all means of war to crush this, committing unspeakable atrocities on the Muslim and Croatian population. The war in Croatia suddenly became a thing of the past, in spite of the fact that one fourth of Croatian territory is still under Serbian occupation.

My first visit to Zagreb, the city of my youth, happened in the summer of 1992. The first shock came upon landing. I learned our Croatia Airline plane was the only aircraft on the runway.

Zagreb's airport used to be a crowded place, bringing tourists to enjoy the beautiful Adriatic coast and the exquisite cuisine. What I found was a desolate place well guarded by the military and two of the most important people of my life, my parents. I tried not to cry, but images of their sitting in a dark and cold cellar for hours during air strikes, my father rushing to buy food while a sniper looked for a target, or my mother falling down a flight of stairs while sirens announced the possibility of a bomb attack were too much to bear.

What struck a nerve in me was that these two people in their 70s, who lived productive and worthy lives, who contributed to society, were forced to hide and fear in their own home.

Members of my family and my friends were optimistic that the war would end soon and that the international community would intervene. My brother-in-law, for example, had dental practice and organized a mobile dental unit on the front lines; my nephew fought by the city of Sisak.

My dear friend's son enlisted as a volunteer. He seemed lost and ungrounded and he reminded me of those with a Vietnam syndrome - he had an aura of those who had seen too much and him will not fit neatly back into civilian life when the war is over.

The demographic picture of Zagreb itself changed radically. Refugees from other parts of Croatia found a safe haven here. Refugee camps were mushrooming everywhere. Veterans with severed limbs sat on park benches. The streets were empty. Hospitals were overcrowded. The number of refugees increased dramatically with the beginning of the war in Bosnia. The exodus of Muslim and Croatian civilians from Bosnia and Herzegovina increased. I left Croatia with a heavy heart and did not share the optimism of its people, who were certain that Europe and the United States would block Serbs in pursuing their expansionistic endeavor.

Unfortunately, my bleak predictions came true. Upon my return to the United States, I continued to join forces with other Croats from metropolitan Detroit in organizing help for our homeland. Our local community soon realized our goals and helped us along the way. The unselfish and heartfelt assistance of my American friends restored my faith in basic human compassion and solidarity, and they will always have my deepest gratitude.

Many Michigan hospitals are taking care of Croatian and Muslim veterans, some of whom I had an opportunity to meet. Recently, I spent one evening in the company of several of these ex-soldiers. I tried to be helpful and offered to open a can of beer for one of them whose right arm had been amputated and who was losing sight in one eye. He had an artificial limb and politely declined my help. He opened his can easily by himself and explained to me that such a task is part of his rehabilitation. I excused myself and went to another room. I could not stop trying. The man was in his early 20s, my son's age, and this was a face of war that will stay with me forever.

Ramona Capek-Kabekovic, a Livonia resident, is a teacher at a local university and organizes Croatian fund-raisers in the Farmington area.



SHARON LEMUEZ/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Flair with hair: Lisa Williams, vice president of Raydiance in Farmington Hills, combs in a piece designed for Anita Kuzian of Bloomfield Hills.

Scratching your scalp?

Throw hair-raising hassles to blow dryer wind



BY BETH SUNDLRA
STAFF WRITER

Bad-hair days can be a thing of the past with some special styling techniques and hair pieces. Get the right advice and you won't have to pull your hair out over your problems.

Hair-ried because it's a bad-hair day? Did you have a hair-raising experience in the mirror this morning?

How about the hair-raising of duplicating the stylist's work on your own?

Well, comb down, some local businesses can help.

To brush up on styling skills, patrons at The Mane Connection in Farmington Hills can have their hair-styling experience videotaped to take home.

And for the more serious hair-styling problems, including for women who have suffered hair loss because of chemotherapy, disease or just over processing, Raydiance of Farmington Hills offers a mesh cap

with synthetic hair attached. It's similar to a wig in that it covers the scalp, but it allows the wearer's own hair to be pulled through the cap and blend with the synthetic hair. Raydiance custom makes each one.

The hair-styling videos are also custom made. After years of hearing clients say, "I wish I could do my hair like you do it," Carole Kessler, owner of The Mane Connection at 38265 Grand River, in Farmington Hills, decided to do something about it. With a video, clients can watch the styling of their own hair at home, and then try to duplicate the look. It costs \$25 plus the cost of styling. The taping is done right in the salon.

"I can see a difference in how they do their hair," Kessler said. Clients can learn techniques ranging from using a round brush to blow drying hair in a way that reduces the frizzies. Having a styling taped offers an-

other advantage, according to Kessler. "It makes the stylist talk about hair the whole time. They can't start talking about boyfriends (while being taped)," Kessler said.

At Raydiance, what started out as a way to help women have the effect of hair highlighting, without going through the chemical process, resulted in a product that helps many women gain back their self-esteem. "Female pattern baldness is not that uncommon anymore," said Lisa Williams, vice president of family owned Raydiance by Tru-Fit International Inc. at 32605 West 12 Mile, Suite 140.

Genetic factors, chemicals used in hair processing, chemotherapy and medications, including the ones some women take for menopause can have hair loss as a side effect.

For unexplained hair loss, a visit to a dermatologist or physician is probably the place to start, but when women can't find a cure they look for cosmetic aids. One woman carried a Raydiance ad around for 8 years before getting up the nerve to come in, Williams said.

A Raydiance hair cap is different from a wig, Williams said, "It's like having a dress or suit made, it's that customized."

The caps start with a fine piece of string that is woven into a cap (almost like a skullcap), then synthetic hair is tied to the cap in varying thicknesses depending on the client's hair loss. Top volume, front volume and full volume are among the designs offered.

"Maintenance is a breeze" because it's synthetic, Williams said. Prices start at \$1,000 and can reach \$2,100, depending on the order.

The company also offers "extensions without all the hassles," Williams said. These hairpieces can add length without damaging the hair.

"For women our hair is everything, but unlike with men society doesn't accept it," Williams said. "The stress some of these ladies go through - some don't want to go back to church because they think people behind them will be looking at them - this helps them get back into their lives," she said.

Dancer steps into teaching career

BY DIANE GALE
STAFF WRITER

Barbara Hatch started dancing when she was 5 and like the Energizer bunny in the commercials she keeps on going.

More than 30 years later she continues to awe other young people with the magic of dancing and performing before an audience. The owner of the Barbara Hatch School of Dance in downtown Farmington, Hatch also founded the Farmington Dance Theatre late last year.

"We formed the group in order to give aspiring dancers in the community a chance to perform in a professional atmosphere," Hatch said. "Currently, two annual shows are scheduled, but our hope is that eventually the dance theater will be able to give performances for charities and other community functions."

The company will incorporate theater elements along with the primary focus of dance.

"To my knowledge Farmington doesn't have a (dance) theater company, and we thought we would be the first," Hatch said.

The shows are scheduled in the spring and during the winter holiday season. The spring concert, "Farmington Dance Theatre on Tour," is in June featuring classical ballet, Broadway theater, tap, dance and jazz.

"Ballet is our emphasis, but we want to include Broadway," Hatch said.



Too tapping time: Barbara Hatch School of Dance students take a break. Top: Corlie Lawton, Breann Hartung, Sara Verlinda, Laurie Smalis, Amanda Weston and Meghan Sheill. Middle: Lauren Helleick, Kelly Warner, Stephanie Batkie, Heather Morgan and Emily Wilson. Bottom: Kelly Myles, Meghan Fay and Betsy Nedwick.

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