

# Psychic from page 1A

Three or four other psychics will be working in the tent, St. Clair said. Those under 18 will not be read, she added.

St. Clair was advised through a promotions coordinator John Virley that a sign stating the 18-and-older policy was not needed.

"They don't want it to sound loud or risqué," St. Clair said.

Psychics are primarily used for entertainment purposes, St. Clair

said, though she does work with some police agencies occasionally.

St. Clair does morning radio call-in shows for stations in Pittsburgh and Baton Rouge, La. She also owns Diana & Associates in Farmington, a video production company.

She already had one prediction for Oct. 29.

"We're going to have fun with it," she said.

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## Arthritis Today

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### WOMEN & ARTHRITIS

More women than men develop rheumatoid arthritis and related conditions such as systemic lupus and scleroderma. Sex hormones are not the reason. Studies in men with arthritis show no increase in estrogen or similar female hormones, nor any lack of androgens and other male hormones.

Furthermore women taking birth-control pills are not at any greater risk of developing arthritis than women who do not use oral contraceptives.

The difference between the X and Y chromosome offers the best explanation. The X chromosome, in addition to determining female features, carries a full line of genetic material; the Y chromosome contains only the genetic material needed to develop male characteristics.

Women possess a larger pool of genetic material and can respond to internal insult with a greater variety of antibodies than men can produce.

The superior ability to react makes it possible for women to withstand the stresses of life and live longer than men. However, the same response may cause an inappropriate antibody reaction: a lifetime of rheumatoid arthritis, lupus erythematosus, or scleroderma with attendant pain and impairment can result.

So is Nature even-handed in its bounty.



## Crunching the numbers

Comprehensive Tests of Basic Skills (CTBS) is an achievement test given annually to third, fifth and eighth grade students in the district. The chart below are third grade scores only. More than 5 million students nationwide take the exam, which measures ability in reading, language and mathematics. Group median scores are reported and compared to the national percentile (NP50).

School	1993 reading actual	1993 reading adjusted	1993 reading difference	1994 reading	1993 language actual	1993 language adjusted	1993 language difference	1994 language	1993 math actual	1993 math adjusted	1993 math difference	1994 math
Beechview	75.0	64.0	-11.0	67.0	74.0	62.0	-12.0	58.5	78.6	58.0	-20.6	68.2
Eagle	79.5	70.0	-9.50	74.7	72.0	60.0	-12.0	67.0	85.0	66.0	-19.0	73.1
Flanders	77.0	67.0	-10.0	77.7	60.6	49.0	-11.6	64.5	66.7	70.0	-16.7	71.5
Forest	75.5	65.0	-10.5	64.5	66.5	55.0	-11.5	59.5	80.5	60.0	-20.5	44.5
Gill	76.7	67.0	-9.70	61.5	67.0	55.0	-12.0	53.5	83.5	65.0	-18.5	44.5
High Meadow	82.0	73.0	-9.00	86.9	83.2	74.0	-9.20	82.0	87.5	71.0	-16.5	91.0
Hillside	72.0	61.0	-11.0	67.5	67.8	56.0	-11.8	59.5	77.0	56.0	-21.0	62.0
Kenbrook	73.5	63.0	-10.5	74.5	73.1	61.0	-12.1	70.8	79.0	59.0	-20.0	72.5
Larkshire	65.6	54.0	-11.6	55.4	66.0	53.0	-13.0	60.3	70.0	47.0	-23.0	62.0
Longacre	71.8	61.0	-10.8	57.0	56.2	44.0	-12.2	51.2	65.2	41.0	-24.2	47.0
William Grace	69.0	58.0	-11.0	43.8	57.5	46.0	-11.5	28.2	69.5	47.0	-22.5	32.5
Woodcreek	77.6	69.0	-8.60	67.5	77.1	66.0	-11.1	56.5	81.3	60.0	-21.3	57.5
Wooddale	84.0	76.0	-8.00	70.0	79.0	68.0	-11.0	61.6	80.5	60.0	-20.5	67.0

Source: Warren Schroeder

## Numbers from page 1A

This year's test fell within the spring norms, which covers March through June. The 1993 testing period came within winter norms, which is December through February.

Eighth-grade scores were not adjusted, since they took the test the same time both years.

Initial building and district reports did explain that the 1993 figures were adjusted to spring norms.

To alleviate confusion, though, actual 1993 numbers will now be included along with the adjusted ones in new building reports.

A system error was also found in the fifth-grade results, and those will be recalculated as well.

said Evaluation, Assessment and Special Projects coordinator Carolyn Mahalak.

"We're certainly not trying to hide anything," said Frederica Frost, director of Evaluation, Assessment & Special Projects. "If we wanted to hide anything, we wouldn't have explained (the adjustment) in the report."

Scores were adjusted by the district according to a chart provided by the test publishers, CTB, a division of Macmillan/McGraw-Hill.

The 1994 results will be the base for future comparisons, Mahalak said.

Numbers from the previous year would be adjusted down-

ward, said an Oakland Schools official.

The opposite trend would seemingly occur, since children are taking the test later in the school year. Thus, conceivably, they would have more instruction.

Not so, said Ernest Bauer, a testing consultant with Oakland Schools.

"A percentile rank is interpretable in terms of: What is the percent of the kids (nationally) did you outperform?" Bauer said.

"Well, obviously, children are learning a lot more things that these tests are measuring. . . .

"So, if you still have the same score you had back in the fall in terms of a raw score, a lot of kids would pass you, and your percentile ranking would go down, possibly."

Oakland Schools tabulates

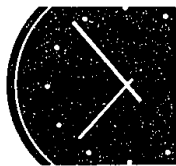
CTBS results for the district, as opposed to having the publisher do it. Test results are returned faster and it saves the district money, school officials said.

However, the publisher uses weekly norms, as opposed to monthly norms, when scoring. The district didn't have access to the weekly chart, school officials said.

If they did, the adjusted 1993 results would have been even more comparable.

"If they are weekly norms versus the whole three months, obviously there is going to be quite a difference between the beginning and the ending," Frost said. "That's just something we feel we just have to live with. It's a trade-off."

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