

LET'S GO!

Your guide to suburban entertainment

Let's go to the Theater

Let's go Dining

Let's go to the Movies

Let's go Traveling

Let's go listen to Music

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THURSDAY, MAY 18, 1995

ON THE MARQUEE



KEELY WYGONIK

Redford Symphony performing Sunday

Come to the cabaret concert 3 p.m. Sunday, May 21 at Thurston High School, 26141 Schoolcraft, between Beech Daly and Inkster Road, featuring the Redford Civic Symphony.

They'll be presenting a variety of musical sounds, sure to get you tapping your toes and humming along. Dr. Joseph Lewis will be conducting, and there is no admission charge.

Congratulations to the three newly elected members of the Board of Directors of the Plymouth Symphony Society — Betsy Bogner, Don Soenen and John Valentine.

Bogner of Canton was elected Orchestra Representative. A flutist with the symphony, Bogner is also principal flutist and personnel manager of the Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra.

Soenen of Plymouth, will serve as a member of the Corporate Benefactor's committee. He is President and CEO of Sensors, Inc. Ann Arbor. His wife, Colleen is the secretary of the Plymouth Symphony League.

Valentine, also of Plymouth, will serve as a marketing consultant. He is executive director of the Information Services at Oakland Community College.

The Upper Level, a Garden City based sketch comedy troupe, will be performing at the Maplewood Community Center, 31735 Maplewood, between Ford Road and Meridian, in Garden City, 7:30 a.m. Friday, May 19. Doors open 7 p.m. Tickets \$5 at the door.

Mark your calendar! Livonia Symphony's annual "Chip in for the Arts" golf outing is Wednesday, June 28 at Fox Creek Golf Course on Seven Mile Road, east of Newburgh, Livonia. The cost is \$30 per golfer and includes greens fee, cart, prizes and refreshments. Continental breakfast served during registration at 7:30 a.m., shotgun start at 8:15 a.m., lunch, prizes and awards at noon.

See MARQUEE, 2B

Now showing

Dining

Fat Willy's, Livonia's newest restaurant-bar, has personality. It's a place to let loose, have fun, and fill up.

Theater

Check out Entertaining Choices to find out what's on stage in your community.

Movies

"The Englishman Who Went Up a Hill but Came Down a Mountain," is one of the year's most charming films.

Travel

Readers share "Wish You Were Here" pictures, and memories of vacations to places near and far away.

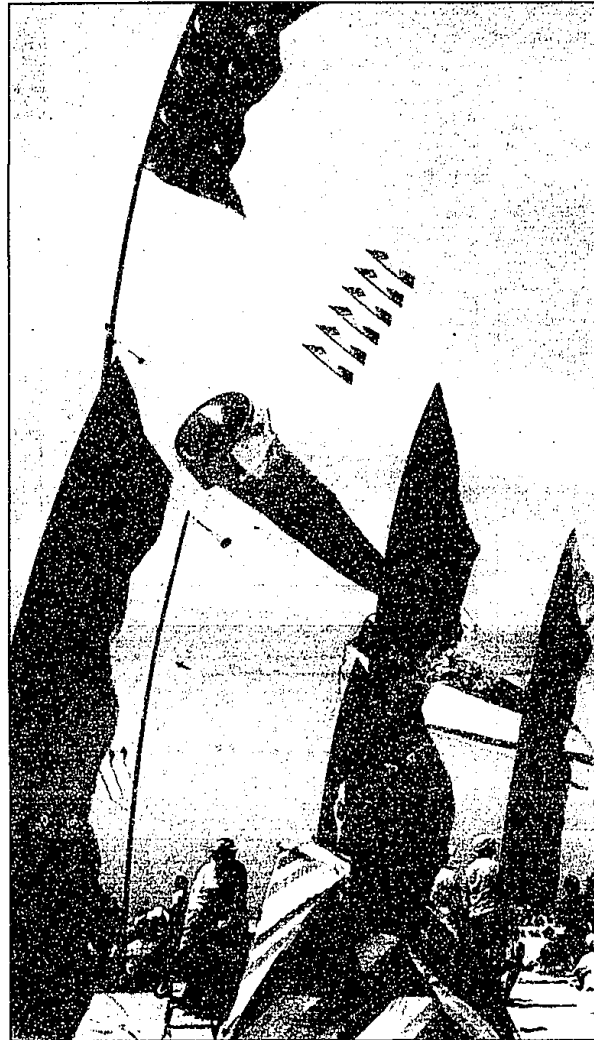
Music

Happiness oozes from the Bad Brains camp now that the original lineup has realigned.

Looking ahead

John Monaghan reviews movies.

What's on stage in your community.



DON VAN ECKEN

Stunt kites: Some of the world's top kite pilots will be on the beach at Grand Haven State Park, May 19-21. These sport kites have two lines which allow the pilots to steer their kites through the sky.

KITES

CAPTURE SOME FUN
AT THE END OF A STRING

Stunt pilots landing in Grand Haven

BY KEELY WYGONIK

Too stunt kite lessons for beginners, and the thrill of seeing a team of sport kites move gracefully through the sky await at the Great Lakes Sport Kite Championships, May 19-21 on the beach at Grand Haven State Park.

"It's a family-fun activity, a spectacle you've never seen before," said Jeff Radtke, a 1976 Livonia Stevenson High School graduate, and one of the event organizers. "Pack your lawn chairs, blanket, and a picnic lunch for one of the most enjoyable beach weekends of the year. On Friday night we'll have a night fly. Lights and glow-in-the-dark sticks will be attached to the kites and kite lines. This spectacular sight is always a favorite with families."

Radtke assured me it's not too late to make plans to attend. "My dad lives in Novi. From Twelve Oaks Mall to the Lake Michigan waterfront it's about a 2 1/2 hour drive," he said. "To get the park, take I-96 west toward Muskegon. Look for the Highway 104 exit. It also says Ferrysburg, Grand Haven, and Spring Lake. Follow the signs to Grand Haven State Park."

Sponsored by the Mackinaw Kite Co. of Grand Haven, Radtke, the owner of Alpine Almond Company, now lives in Holland, and has been involved with the festival for four years.

The event, sponsored by the Mackinaw Kite Company in Grand Haven draws over 40,000 spectators and 100 of the world's top stunt kite pilots, including fliers from all over the United States and Canada.

"Kiting was a hobby of mine. I met these guys at the store, (Mackinaw Kite Co.) and

See KITES, 2B

Great Lakes Sport Kite Championships

Where: Noon to midnight Friday, May 19; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, May 20, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, May 21.

Where: Grand Haven State Park

For more information:

Call (816) 840-7501.

Lodging: 1-800-844-1796 (4500)



Spring skies beckon whimsical soarers

BY BARBARA WILSON

They have been used to study electricity, weather conditions, air travel and even space travel. In some cultures they were considered to hold supernatural powers.

Today, kites are experiencing a rebirth — not as a means of scientific study — but as a great hobby that is as inviting to 6-year-olds as it is to 90-year-olds.

The rich, blue skies of spring beckon to the whimsical soarers. They bob about on the winds providing entertainment to those at the other end of the string and to those sitting along the sidelines with eyes fixed to the sky.

"To me watching kites is like watching fireworks or a waterfall," said Gary Maynard, captain of the Windjammers Stunt Kite Team of Detroit. "Somehow when we're at an event, I just have to stop flying, take a step back and watch. They're beautiful."

The Windjammers find audiences everywhere they go from Belle

Isle to a field at Ford World Headquarters where they practice for events like the Howell Hot Air Balloon Festival. Maynard is always willing to help out kite-flying "wannabes" and offer advice.

"We are asked to events where they actually pay us," he said. "If someone would have told me that I could be paid for flying a kite, I would have told them to go fly a kite."

Hobby stores and specialty shops like Kites & Fun Things in Plymouth always experience a spike in kite business this time of year as people get bit by the outdoor bug. Parents with fond memories of flying kites and want to pass that along to their own kids.

"We have our avid flyers who come in year-round, but at this time of year we see more beginners," said Marianne Trennepohl, who owns Kites & Fun Things with her husband, Jon. Jon was turned on to stunt kites

See SOARERS, 2B



BILL BRIDGEMAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Preparing for flight: Jon Trennepohl of Kites & Fun Things in Plymouth, puts finishing touches on a Delta Sport Kite. The deltas are easy kites to fly.