POINTS OF VIEW

Plunge into the vagaries of a suburban April

A pril is the cruclest month.
It's not only that it teases us with a glimpse of green tulip shoots through patches of snow while temperatures slip and slide.
It's not only that it keeps sports fam or edge as the games of winter draw to a climax and the boys of summer get under way.

on edge as the games of winter draw to a climax and the bays of summer get maler way. But for those who run, walk, exercise, enjoy the arts, brunch, dine and dance, all for good causes, April poses a dilemma.

It was take this Sunday, for example. If you want to do the ban, MS Walk for Multiple Secterosis through Birningham-Bloomfeld and the moon Michigan Humane Society Bow Wow Humah at the Rite Carlton in Dearborn, you'll have to make the MS Walk arm, or shorten it considerably.

Going without a shower or merely trading in walking shore for high heels on wing tips will not do. Even, or may be especially, the adorable, adoptable animals who traditionally highlight the lumch will know where you've been

before.

It dust take Saturday, April 20. It's unlikely that you will be able to participate in the 9 n.m. tune's run at 8:30 n.m. I Bace for the Cure at the Detroit Zoo to support breast cancer education and research and the Workout for Hope for HV/AIDS and related cancer research scheduled 9 n.m to noon at the Farmington Hills campus of Oakland Community College.

Well, you might make the last hour of the workout, in the Orchard Ridge campus gym, I you are lucky enough to find a parking spot near the zon and to stay clear of the traffic caused by 12,000-plus expected participants, Oh, and don't tell Nike, but you probably can jet away with wenting the same shoes.

Just take, Saturday, April 27, Well,

shoes.

Just take, Saturday, April 27, Well, here's some daylight, even though there's me daylight, even though these are night-time affairs. The 6:30 pm. Discoyery Ball at the Tray Mariott is just up Big Hower from the 7:30 pm. Red Ribbon Ball at the Somerset Collection.



So the scene is set for cameo appearances at both worthwhile galas. No showering or change in attire is called for and, once again, same shoes.

The Discovery Baff, a fund-raiser for fuckenia research, is a project of the Leukenia Society of America. The Red Hibban Ball benefits people with HIV/AIDS that are housed, ted and serviced by Wellness House of Michigan.

Of course, even though you are properly dressed, the lugistics would work against attending the opening of "La

Boheme" by the Michigan Opera The-atre, in its inaugural season at the Be-troit Opera House.

It was jost to avoid situations like these that the Eccentric's own social events writer Sully Gerak proposed a Community Calendar to The Commu-nity House of Birmingham back in 1991.

With the backing of Beret Winklo-

1991. With the backing of Beryl Winkle-man of West Bloomfield, the calendar is a clearinghouse for non-profit organ-izations who want to stake out their fund-raisers to draw the most people

pussible.
That has generally worked well for
"Corol But or That has generally worked well for mid-week events, says Greak. But once the public schools Spring Break is over, there just doesn't seem to be enough week-ends to avoid condities. And, there are still some events planners who neglect to list.

"I did a kind of schematic for April." Greak confides. "And there is no way! can get to or even mention all the events."

events. Interestingly, The Community

House is just about to enlarge the scope of that calendar, says spokesperson Leslie Drolet.

Plans are to ge "On Line" so that it is accessible by computer and to go beyond non-profit lund-raisers.

"We're thinking of enlarging it to be a useful calendar for the whole live Bisarca", says Drolet, referring to Birmingham, Bloomfield Township.

Bloomfield Hills, Bingham Farms and Beverly Hills.

And they produce a print-ont on a quarterly basis.

Meantime, looking back to our individual calendars, it's obvious some hard choices must be made.

That's why April is the cruelest month, at least until May.

Judith Doner Berne, a West Bloomthe first point of the first was a final public resident, is former managing editor of the Eccentric Newspapers. You can comment on this column by calling (413) 953-2047, EM, 1997 or by writing or faxing (810-644-1314) a letter to the editor of this newspaper.

Socialized fishing a way to angle around Engler

ot my new fishing license with trout stamp over the weekend. Still \$20.70. Gov. John Engler's proposed 20 percent increase hasn't passed the Legislature and can't take effect until April of 1997.

Got trout fiver. Heen thong a lot of thinking about it. Picked up a fly rad-on clenrance at my lavorite superduper market last fall. Added a reel and fly line over the winter. Heen reading books and magazines about fly lishing.

It made me nonder how lucky we Mi-It made me ponder how lucky we Mi-dipanians are to have chorp access to woods, lakes and rivers, despite En-gler's pulicies. Sure, an angler meds a license to drive, a ficense for the trailer, a license for a motorized boat, a state park pass sy out can use a public boat launch, a license to fish and the need to satisfy a law on personal fluntation devices. But it's still relatively chenp, Consider Peter Essick's article, "A Passion for Trout," in the April issue of National Geographic magazine. He opens with a description of a trust cen-sis while diving in chill Oregon waters, then winds up visiting a private club in England.

The pinuacle of privilege is the 24-member Houghton Club in Stackbridge, owner of 44 glorious miles of the Test (River).

Turn the brass lands, case open the green readen down marked PRIVATE, and perhaps a member will pare you a glass of port from the dimpled crystal decenter on the sideboard. Note the leatherboard book on the club room leatherbound book on the etito roan table. It is the fishing diary, and yan will turn its pages to find the names of Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower and Prince Charles, among other notables, who have fished as passis. "I see a flush of fards has been here," says Mich Lann, inspecting the previ-



Two incited to fish with (the Honora-ble Authory Samuel a member of 37 years). More precisely, since I'm not a member, I'm invited to watch.

The scene is irresistible Sumuel in tattersall shirt and black hait tie, is Samuel. nimi∴g a small brown fly at a feeding

my pager.
Not quite picture perfect, however,
My hand itches for a rod. Absentmindedly. I make ensting motions with my

edly. I make costing motions with my pencil.

Samuel glunces back: "So surry you can't hace a go." he says. And contin-ues costing.

"In America it is very different," said Contral Voss-Hark (former pishing cor-respondent for the Times of Landon who meant I shouldn't be offended.
"Here fishing rights can be bought and sold like commodities. You might say cather welchelly that Americans have a swellist system of lishing, with the Brits, it's equilation.

have a socialist system of Ishing, with the Brits, it seemtables. The Foryears Eve thought of myself as a capitalist and pal of the insurance companies. But it Michigan's system of natural resources access is social-ism, let's preserve it. Engley want tike to raid the Natural Resources Trust Fund, chaiming we

A lot of riparian owners would like to block further acquisition of public boat launch sites. No one who heard him will ever lorget the guy who said at a public hearing in Oakland County, "Il you don't own property, you don't need a hear."

von don't own property, you don't need a load.

A triend tells how his northwoods neighbors tear down Department of Natural Resources signs on state land to disguise the fact that it's public. The attempt is deliberately to misguide the great unwashed public so they won't use the land.

Engler bimself never has said it, but a pal of his advocates selling off all the state parks and letting "market forces" mete out natural resources. Those of us who wear checked flaunch shirts rather than tattersall and black ties have reason to lear that. son to lear that

Tim Hichard reports on the local im-plications of state and regional events.

New ways sought to replace employees in auto industry

eturning to Michigan after a trip to Ituly is a real eye-opener.

Our streets are wider, the traffic more law-athiding, the smoking far less. When lines are called for, people actually stay in the queue, relatively politely. The weather is warmer.

Moreover, there exists in Michigan today a real sense of economic optimism entirely lacking in Ituly and the rest of Europe.

Ended by the geometric decisionant of nearby

ing in Italy and the rest of Europe.
Fuched by the expected retirement of nearly
25,0,000 hordy and salaried workers during the
next 10 years, the Big Three are expected to hire
up to 120,000 replacement workers in Michigan
between now and 2003. In Europe, by contrast,
unemployment is at historic highs—often in
double digits—with no serious prospect of
coming down in the foreseeable future.
The solution most often mentioned by European politicians is to cut the work week, on avcage already shorter than the American 40hour standard. The idea is to spread available
jobs over a larger number of people, regardless

jobs over a larger number of people, regardless of the increased cost per hour. Talk to European business types, however,

and you discover the cause for long unemploy and you discover the cause for long unempoy-ment lines. Very high casts to employers for ev-cything associated with hiring somebody, from long vacations to high social security taxes, from the cirrual impossibility of ever firing a worker for cause to high-cost government-run lood to measurement. health care systems.

Why should we hire people, European busi-

mentic care systems.
Why should we hire people, European husinesses say, when it casts us so much to pay for all the costs associated with employing them?
And to judge from the wave of strikes in France and the general political climate elsewhere, in no European country does there exist emorph political will to reduce sharply the costs passociated with hiring people. An international lawyer from Michigan with an extensive client base in Europe put it this way. 'I don't see European businesses being internationally competitive for the foresecuble future. Their costs of employment are just too lok.'

By contrast, the University of Michigan study that produced the 129,000-new-hires estimate has provoked a feeding frenzy of activity by state government to find ways to get local youth ready for auto jobs that can pay up to \$43 per

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The auto industry is very concerned about the ability of our basic educational system to produce the people necessary for the new auto jobs, according to U-M Professor David Cole,



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author of the study. Manufacturing plants are

author of the study. Manufacturing plants are increasingly automated, requiring workers to be highly skilled, well-motivated and competent to work in self-directed teams. Giv. John Engler promptly proposed a new Michigan Auto college, on on-line consortium led by U-M, to offer two-way video courses for potential auto employees. He also proposed spending 84.5 million for a burnel of Jump Start Institutes in communities with major auto plants to provide hands-on training for current auto employees and to help applicants qualify for new auto jobs.

He also wants to spend \$500,000 to set up an He also wants to spenti sologon to set up an Internet site to ofter a virtual auto plant tour for students, teachers and parents. As Professor Cole says. "We must replace the social stigma of factory jobs. They are now knowledge jobs and demand more intellectual capacity than ever before."

Returning home to America is striking. In Returning nome to America is straing, in Europe, old states with ossified political sys-tems seem unable to cope with the realities of today's global competitive economy. In Ameri-ca, government and industry seem hot to change the old assumptions and adapt new ways of preparing young people for new, produc-tive jobs.

Maybe that's why they called it the "New

World.

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