

CHAT ROOM



SAM ROSS

Signs say it all in handicap parking spaces

Please reacquaint yourself with the rules of the road, especially as it applies to handicap parking. This lack of knowledge can result in expensive fines.

Handicap spaces are generally designated by stripes on pavement with handicap logo signs posted at the head of the space. Stripe colors are irrelevant. The most important element is the posted sign. Remember this.

In many communities, some handicap spaces have white stripes, yellow, or brown. As long as there is a posted sign this space is a legitimate handicap space and should be avoided if drivers don't have a valid permit. Without a sign but a logo and stripes, respect his space for handicap drivers.

In November, my partner, Ray Haefner, and I reluctantly issued three tickets to drivers who chose to ignore the posted sign because one stripe was blue and the other was yellow. Please remember that the posted sign is the criteria.

The majority of tickets issued are for drivers who may be unaware of the importance of the posted sign. Color of stripes is immaterial, especially when they are obscured under snow or ice.

Please see CHAT ROOM, B2



STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LAMITZ

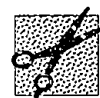
Trim job: Andy Schmittiel of Birmingham gets the finishing touches on his cut by Abe Aon.

A cut above



Pole position: The barber pole outside is a symbol to a bygone era.

Barber's attention to tradition is a sheer delight



BY RICHARD PEARL
STAFF WRITER

Soft-spoken Abe Aon may be one of the last practitioners of the barbering tradition.

And he may be right, if "tradition" means those exclusive shops with the candy-striped poles where men for centuries have gathered to discuss life and ease their burdens

with another man who also happens to be an artist at cutting their hair.

"When I die, there'll be nobody to take my place," says the longtime Farmington Hills barber, who followed his father into the profession in the Old City of Jerusalem, but whose own children are studying international finance in college.

"Another 10 years, and you're not going to see barbers anymore," says Aon, who's practiced in metro Detroit

for 32 years, mostly in Farmington Hills. "I'm not criticizing anyone, but barbering is a dying art."

"You can count on one hand the number of barbers in Farmington and Farmington Hills."

The facts seem to bear him out: the local phone book shows four businesses calling themselves "barber shops". Interestingly, Abe's Aon's Hair Salon isn't among them, because he also employs beauticians and manicurists.

According to the state Office of Commercial Services in Lansing, as of Feb. 2, licensed cosmetologists outnumbered licensed barbers 76,037 to 6,814.

There are 9,046 hair-care or beauty salons - many catering to both sexes - compared to 2,193 barber shops. There also are four barber colleges with 679 students and 97 licensed cosmetology schools with about 8,000 students.

A barber, who generally concentrates

Please see BARBER, B2

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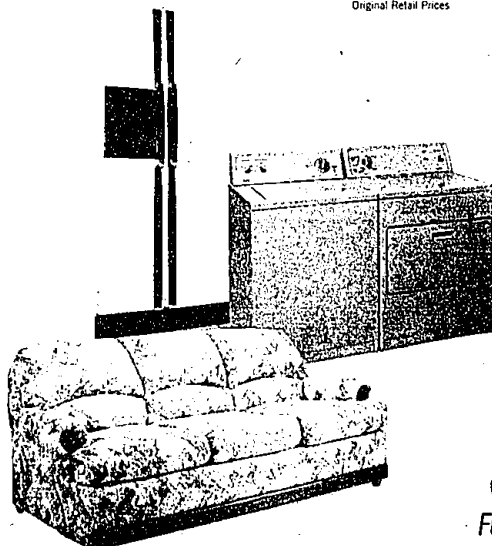
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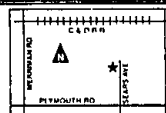
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