

## Barbie is star at club event

Barbie's got it all — looks, clothes, more than one great career, a steady boyfriend, cars, a dream home, etc. But more importantly, she has lots of friends or fans, depending on which word you prefer.

Hundreds of them expressed their affection for her by attending the ninth annual Grants a Wish Weekend convention and sale, which was held March 27-29 at the Livonia Marriott.

Sponsored by the Great Lakes Chapter of the Fashion Doll Collectors Club, the event raises money for Michigan charities. Last year it raised \$19,000 for Rainbow Connection, an organization that grants wishes to terminally ill children.

This year five charities will benefit: Gilda's House, which offers support to people living with cancer; AFFirmations, to help it promote AIDS awareness; Simon's House, to help it buy an apartment building for single mothers who are HIV positive and their children; Christ Child, a residence for abused and neglected children; and the MSU Pure-Bred Dog Endowment.

### Something for everyone

"We usually have a line out the door and all the way around the building for the public sale, it's that popular," said club member Jennifer Dobb of Sterling Heights.

The event isn't just for women and girls. A number of men were there Friday, including club president Scott Crocker of Flint.

"I had G.I. Joees when I was a kid," he said, "and G.I. Joe needed a girlfriend, so I started collecting Barbies. I've been collecting them ever since."

One of the highlights of this year's event was the presence of Carol Spencer, chief designer of Barbie collector dolls and collectibles for Mattel Inc. Spencer, who has been designing Barbie fashions for Mattel for nearly 35 years, was guest speaker at the luncheon and designed a one-of-a-kind Barbie for the auction.

As a designer, she has lived and traveled all over the world. But her best job-related experience happened right here in Michigan, when she attended a collectors convention in 1982, she said.

"Until that time, I had no idea that people enjoyed my work," she said. "It was such a revelation to come and see the collectors and see how much they appreciated the clothes I designed."

Spencer said she considers herself the "mother" of Barbie's baby sister, Kelly, a doll that came out three years ago. "I never designed clothes for Kelly, but she was my concept," she said. She said she wanted to introduce nurturing play (caring for a small child) into Barbie's world. Giving Barbie a baby sister was just about the only way to do that, because even though you can find Barbie and Ken in wedding outfits, Mattel has never officially married them, she said.

To celebrate her 35th anniversary with Mattel, Spencer will host an on-line chat on Barbie's official computer Web site — [WWW.Barbie.com](http://WWW.Barbie.com) — from 6 to 7 p.m. EST on April 29. Everyone who is logged on will receive a special gift (something to print out) at the end of the chat session.

### Best bets

And if you have an old Barbie lying around and wonder if it's worth anything, here are some tips from Susan Manos of Warren, who has written several Barbie collectors' price guides and who co-founded the club in 1982.

- From 1959 until 1965, Barbie had molded plastic eyelashes that juddered out from her face and from 1966 until 1972, she had rooted eyelashes. If you have a Barbie like this, it may be worth something.

- Barbies made after 1972 have painted on eyelashes and generally are not worth anything unless they are in the original box.

- Don't get excited if the year 1966 is stamped on your Barbie's back. All Barbies made since then bear that stamp, because that is the year that the doll's twist and turn waist was invented.

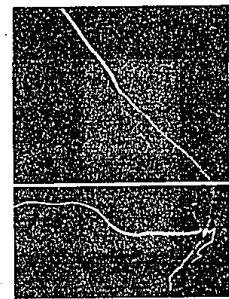
For more information about the Great Lakes Chapter of the Fashion Doll Collectors Club, call Kathleen Dings of Livonia at (734) 432-6146.

## Computer image helps women buy the right bra

BY JUDITH HARRIS SOLOMON  
SPECIAL WRITER

In order to give a woman the best fit and silhouette in a brassiere, leading undergarment manufacturer Wacoal, sends a digital imaging machine to department stores for special events.

The Silhouette Analyzer offers a customer an intimate look at her



Sample of the Wacoal computer image.

profile in the form of a computer image.

Sandy Crump, Michigan sales representative for Wacoal, recently made an appearance at Hudson's Oakland Mall store in Troy with The Analyzer.

So in the name of research, this reporter decided to go through "The Analyzer."

Crump said every woman should visit her favorite lingerie department at least once a year to be measured and fit for a bra because breast size can change due to weight loss or gain, and due to hormone therapy. Combining the analyzer, a tape measure and her own expertise, Crump fits undergarments.

### Here's how it works:

First, I was ushered into a private fitting room and asked to remove my sweater. Then, while wearing the bra I had come in with, Crump used a tape measure to measure me in three different places. (Sorry, I don't think giving the actual numbers will enhance this story in any way.)

Then, I was asked to turn sideways. The Silhouette Analyzer's built-in computer immediately flashed my picture and then drew an outline of my shape which appeared on the private monitor screen.

When Crump fit me with two new bras, the Silhouette Analyzer drew two new silhouettes for comparison. (The analyzer can do three lines at a time.) It was amazing... or should I say uplifting?

I could literally see that the new bras, one in particular, made a big difference in my shape... so I decided to purchase one.

But Crump said one bra is not enough. "Customers often wear the same bra everyday," she said. "However, you need three bras — one you wear, one in the laundry, and one that is 'resting' after it's been washed. You need 24 hours for Lycra to completely dry and go back to its natural shape and form."

Crump explained that a "measurement" is just that.

"It just puts us in the ballpark and tells us where to begin. Each bra runs different because of the design. Within the size, some will fit better than others and one or two will always be superior for your body frame."

Crump insists she loves her job. "It's instant gratification when you work with a woman and make her look and feel so much better in her clothes. If the foundation isn't right, then our outer wear doesn't look the best that it can," she said.

Wacoal recently introduced a petite line of bras. "It's not about size or weight," Crump said. "It's about proportion. These sizes range from a 30AA to a 36B."

This summer, Wacoal will introduce a full-figure seamless bra. Again, the line is not based on clothing size; it is based on cup size and will be for size D and up.

Also new, according to Shelly Hutson of Hudson's, are bras in velvet fabrics and soft colors. Intimate apparel is getting trendier. "Whatever colors are big that season, we're seeing bras and pants in those colors, too," she said.

This spring, look for light purples, blues, greens and yellows. Wacoal bra-fitting events utilizing the Silhouette Analyzer are scheduled at Saks Fifth Avenue in Troy on April 23 and 24, and at Jacobson's Birmingham store on May 28 and 29.

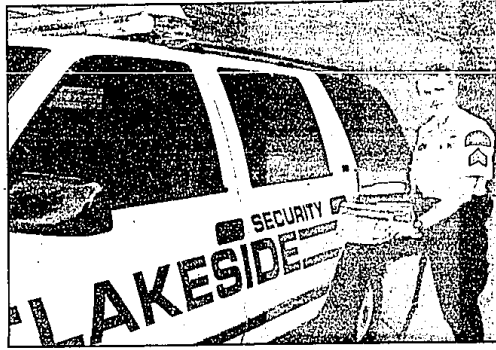
### Uplifting ideas

Did you know that eight out of 10 women wear the wrong bra size?

Shelley Hutson, selling manager for dresses and intimate apparel at Hudson's in the Oakland Mall, Troy, said, "Many of our guests have worn the same style and size bra for years, and it might no longer be the best for them."

Your clues are: if the back of the bra rides up too high, the straps are falling down, an underwire is poking you, or you're falling out of the sides.

Hutson says her sales people are all trained to fit bras. However, "if a guest would rather see a vendor specialist, we'll let them know when the next event is going to be."



Playing it safe: Lakeside security officer Scott Opalka holds a compact defibrillator for emergency situations at the mall.

## Heart machine is a lifesaver at mall



No one plans on having a heart attack at a shopping mall. But if you want to up your odds of surviving should it happen, pay attention to where you shop. Lakeside has become the first center to train its staff to use a heart defibrillator.

Lakeside Mall in Sterling Heights recently purchased a LIFEPAK6500 automated external defibrillator (AED) and has personnel trained to use it on the spot in the event that a shopper suffers cardiac arrest.

According to Physio-Control Corp., which manufactures this device, Lakeside may be just ahead of a national trend by offering this lifesaving capability at a shopping mall.

Physio-Control, based in Redmond, Wash., has already placed more than 7,500 of the units in the hands of police, firefighters, flight attendants and security officers in public venues everywhere from airports to casinos.

Last year, however, a four-year research project presented to the American Heart Association, found large shopping malls in Seattle ranked behind the county jail as the third most likely place to suffer a heart attack.

Every day, 1,000 Americans suffer cardiac arrest, and more than 95 percent of them die. In many cases, that's because life-saving defibrillators arrive too

late — if at all, according to the AHA.

Lakeside's new AED, a portable version of larger defibrillators found in ambulances and hospital emergency rooms, enables the center's trained security officers to administer on-the-spot defibrillation in the critical minutes before EMS help arrives.

"The cause of most heart attacks is an arrhythmia, or fibrillation," explains Harry Aretakis, M.D., medical director of the Macomb County EMS.

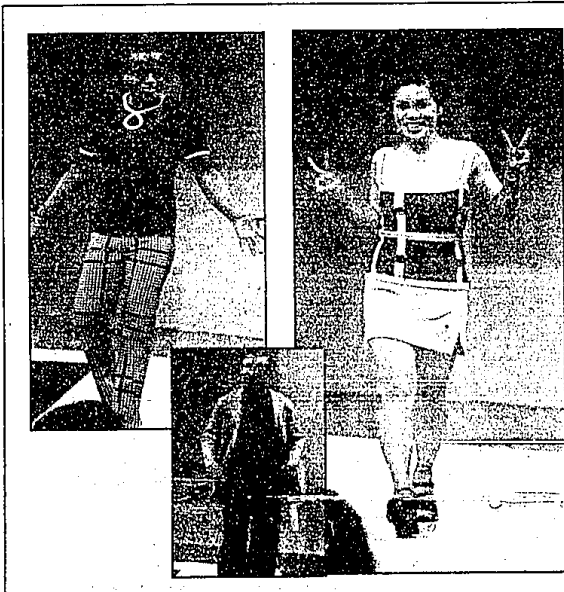
"The key to survival may depend on how rapidly you can defibrillate — or jump start — the heart back into its normal rhythm. If trained personnel can do that on the scene, a heart attack victim stands a greater chance of survival."

Defibrillation, which uses an electric shock to jolt a cardiac arrest victim back to life, is the only effective way to counteract two common causes of cardiac arrest, ventricular fibrillation, where the heart's electrical impulses become chaotic and ineffective, and ventricular tachycardia, a too-rapid and therefore ineffective heartbeat.

Thirteen Lakeside security officers "became licensed after completing 81 hours each in Medical First Responder (MFR) training, 20 hours of it dedicated to using the center's new defibrillator. The remainder of the training, which covers treatment for everything from seizures and diabetic comas to strokes and childbirth, means that Lakeside shoppers who need it will have trained assistance in a matter of seconds or minutes.

All of the center's remaining officers will eventually complete the training, which is the first level of instruction given to all EMS and EMT personnel.

Lakeside Center is on M-59 and Schoenherr in Sterling Heights.



## Hudson's style 'RENT' cast models fashion on the edge

Hudson's collection of Advanced Spring Fashions were presented by the cast members of RENT at the Majestic Theatre in Detroit on March 23.

The \$10,000 raised from the fashion party will be used by the Fancloub Foundation for the Arts in support of educational programs for the arts in metro Detroit.

About 300 guests enjoyed viewing the hip collections from designers Cynthia Stoffe, DKNY for Men, Lolla, CBYG, CYNTHIA and Max Studio.

Show highlights included garments of crocheted lace, burnout jersey shirts, sheer net overlay jersey skirts, and colors like paprika, curry, Wedgewood blue, gold, and tones of green.

RENT opens at the Fisher Theater in Detroit on April 8. (Top left) Black T-shirt with white trim by Cheap & Chic, black red, white checked pants by Moschino Jeans. (Right) Camisole by Easel, blue miniskirt by Laundry, Chocolate three-button herringbone blazer, silk short T-shirt and drawstring trouser by DKNY for Men.

All available at Hudson's — Oakland, Somerset North and Twelve Oaks.