## Wurder from page E1

2" and "Detecting Men"; and Doug Allyn of Montrose, author of "Dance in Deep Water." Also signing are Chris Mechan of Grand Rapids, author of "Murder" on the Grand", Tom Sullivan of Lathrup Village, author of "The Martyring". Elizabeth Bowman, author of "White Chocolate"; and Richard Baldwin, author of "A Lason Plan for Dying." "In Blacker Moments" features a middle-aged couple, Kate and Ray Fredrick. Ray is a chief of

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detectives for a fictional mid-size Michigan city and Kate is his persistent wife. When a nun from the local parish is almost killed by a hit and run driver, Ray suspects deliberate foul play. "The publisher wanted to go with a series, and I signed for a second book." Schenkel said. "But this was at the time when small publishing houses were having trouble staying afloat. Before they could publish the second one, they were out of business."

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• 10

' That didn't keep Schenkel from writing, but it did disillu-sion her about the publishing

businees.

"In the past authors were given a lot of help through small independents, nutrured and helped along. Murder, Mystery & Mayhem is that kind of small bookstore. Authors like myself have no place to turn, 'she said.

The lead characters were named after Schenkel's parents, though she said they also take

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something from her and hor husband.

"My husband (Roy Schenkel) likes to think he's Ray," she said.
"He equates the two of them to the two of us more easily than I do."

Kate and Ray have a leving relationship based on close com-munication. But the book also draws on another part of Schenkel's life.

Schenkel's life.
For 17 years, Schenkel was a
Roman Catholic nun.
"Several of the characters in
the book, the sisters, were influenced by people I had known in
the convent. The Mother was very
close to a person I know, such a
strong and spiritual person who
influenced me a lot," she said.
Schenkel worked as a missionary in Africa but finally decided
it wasn't right for her. A year

after leaving the convent, she met her husband, a widower with four children ages 6, 8, 10 and 12. Those children are now in their 30s and 40s and the Schenkels have seven grandchil-

"I never regretted anything, they were both good decisions at the time, all part of life," she

said.

Schenkel has continued to write Kate and Ray mysteries, including one set in an African mission. But her latest mystery features a very different couple in another exotic location – the Sahara.

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Sahara.
"I like the characters of this book I'm writing better than Ray and Kate. I can be freer with them. They are not constrained,"

ie said. The desert setting is some-

thing that she's always found interesting.
Though she's learned a lot as a writer over the years, she hasn't been able to find another publisher. But she still enjoys the process. Knecking on the table, she said, "I don't have a problem with plots or characters, no write a block."

Assetzing are always a chal-

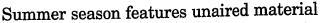
with piots or canacters, in which piots or canacters hock."

Mysteries are always a challenge. In Blacker Moments has a complex plot that moves logically and smoothly to its conclusion and that's what Schenkel enjoys.

"Weaving plots, tucking in clues, playing fair without leting the reader know where things are going. That's what I really enjoy, she said.

She hopes when she finishes her Sahara mystery to convince another publisher that readers would enjoy it too.

another published would enjoy it, too





If you watched through last summer, you know the drill: During our full production season – when we still have production money — we ask all of our musical guests to perform extra songs for us, even though we won't have time the same week

even though we to air them the same week they're in the studie taping them. By the end of the season, we have a let of music by a let of different artists in the can. Come summertime - when we've largely exhausted our budget and can't afford the expense of full production - we can bring you previously unaired material. Of course, we watch the wires through town so that whenever possible we can tell you how to eatch the artists you see on the show live at one of Detroit's great local venues. We give completely new and updated information on our video bilibaards that highlight area openings and ongoing shows. And we also sprinkle in some of the past season's highlights from theater,

dance and the visual arts. So, if you're willing to take a metaphorical leap with me here, the summer season of "Backstage Pass" on Detroit Public Television is the three-dellar cofferable of Stelevision and pass

when we saw the most of the public reference in the first properties of television - old, new and valuable all at once.

Tonight's show kicks off the summer season in more ways than one, because tomerrow is the summer solstice. We're celevating with musical performances from Celtic supergroup Solas and Detroit's own Rackham Symphony Choir.

When we asked the Rackham symphony Choir to perform in our studio, we knew it would be the largest group we'd ever put on tape. The full ensemble numbers around 85, which we simply could not accommodate in our space. The choir is led by Suzanne Acton, who was wonderful about coming down to the studio in advance to speak to our director and a producer about our limitations. Suzanne shout 50 people - who blew us away with the power and subtlety of their voices. It's no wonder this renowned local ensemble has performed with stars like Lucianne Pavarutti and Elizabeth Parcells. This week, we'll take another look at an exhibition of the African-right at midnight, repeated tomorrow night at midnight, repeated to the proposed to the stude of the proposed to the proposed

ously unaired piece they performed for us, "Son Io."

Solas came into town the one time I was away for a show. What a bad week to miss! With press like "The Boston Herald" calling Solas "the first truly great Irish band to arise from America," you can bet that the station that brought you "Riverdance" was buzzing when they came in to perform.

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PC Frontier (Personal Computing Frontier)

June 19 & 20, Friday & Saturday 10am-5pm Spend Father's Day Weekend with the PC Dads, two hip cowboys committed to helping lasso non-techie families into computer savvy consumers. This entertaining national traveling show features the latest in computer technology-software, hardware and digital photography-all with an irreverent western show. Yeehahl

The Wonderful Water Cycle

June 27, Saturday 10am-Noon Discover the fascinating world of water! Learn about the water cycle and discover how water droplets are naturally recycled. Make and take your own "rainstick." Ages 5 and older. Preregistration required. Members \$4, non-members \$5.

The Robot Zoo

June 13 through September 7, 1998 National traveling summer exhibit features eight larger than-life, robotic creatures, constructed of man-made parts. Compute interactive and hands-on displays help you discover how real animals function. This axhibit is sponsored by TIME, FANUE Robotics and Silicon 👺 Graphics.

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## Summer Youth & Teen Art Classes

The youth and teen program at the BBAC offers preschoolers through sentor high school students an opportunity to study a wide variety of art offerings on a weekly basis with skilled instructors. The programs develop the skills utilized in creating art work with attention to building aesthetic awareness and creative ability. The summer session runs July 6 through August 8. The Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center is located at 1516 S. Cranbrook Rd., Just north of 14 Mile in Birmingham. For further information O-II 0.400 6.44 0.0066 further information Call 248.644.0866



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