

## CHAT ROOM



Kenneth Kemp

## Detective work uncovers rare syndrome

**P**ersonage-Turner Syndrome — What is it? You or someone you know may have it or have experienced it in the past and physicians were not able to correctly diagnose it. Why?

The medical dictionary at Datoford Hospital describes it this way: "neuralgic amyotrophy, a brachial plexus disorder characterized by sudden pain and muscle weakness in the upper limbs and possible muscular wasting or atrophy. The cause is unknown."

I think it's important to further define some of these terms. Neuralgia refers to a nerve or pain in a nerve. Amyotrophy basically means atrophy, or wasting away. Brachial refers to the arm. Plexus refers to a network of blood vessels and nerve fibers.

I know about this syndrome because I have what is known as unresolved Personage Turner Syndrome, which means it still exists after a hand operation in December 1994. Any number of physicians over the years were either unwilling or unable to diagnose my condition. Some doctors are thought to be unwilling to tell a patient what they may have due to their fear of litigation. But I've been on the trail of finding a diagnosis and cause of my prob-

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# Super Summer Fun FOR THE FAMILY

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Weekends ... gotta love 'em. They're a chance to kick back and relax, forget about work for 48 hours and catch a few innings of baseball on the tube.

But they're also a good time to expand yours and your children's horizons, a chance to explore space and science, learn about the history of Michigan, sample life in the good ole days or delve into automotive technology.

Let's see ... between now and Labor Day, there's 12 Saturdays (or Sundays, if you prefer) that can be set aside to explore southeast Michigan attractions.

You can start off close to home with the recently opened Spirit of Ford, an interactive automotive science and technology center at 1151 Village Road, Dearborn.

The center offers visitors an opportunity to experience the unique creative process behind automotive design, technology and manufacturing with hands-on exhibits, the full-motion "Turbo Tour," an assembly line simulator ride, and an action-packed

NASCAR pit stop.

Spirit of Ford is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Sunday. Admission is \$9 for adults (age 13 and older), \$7 for youths (ages 6-12), \$6 for children (ages 3-4) and \$8 for senior citizens (age 62 and older). For more information, call (313) 31-SPiRiT (317-7474) or visit the Web site at <http://www.spiritofford.com>

The Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit, has more than 100 galleries, featuring sculpture, textiles, paintings and antiquities. Exhibitions include "Valor and Grace" through Sept. 19 in the Japanese Gallery. It features objects belonging to samurai warriors, including a full set of armor, swords, sword guards and ornaments, quiver and arrows and a woodblock print by Utagawa Kuniyoshi showing General Watonai in full samurai armor.

"Ancient Gold: The Wealth of the Thracians, Treasures from the Republic of Bulgaria" runs June 27-Aug. 29 and features more than 200 gold and silver artifacts from museums across Bulgaria that demonstrate the extra-

**MUSEUMS,  
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gant artistic tastes of the warlike tribes from ancient Thrace. Loosely organized, but powerful, the Thracians occupied most of central Europe for almost 2,000 years before being conquered by the Romans in the fourth century A.D.

DIA hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday-Friday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Recommended admission is \$4 for adults and \$1 per child. For more information, call (313) 833-7900.

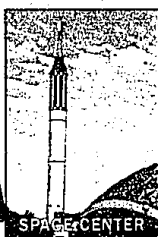
Cranbrook Institute of Science, 1221 N. Woodward Ave., between Long Lake and Lone Pine roads, Bloomfield Hills, encourages children and adults to understand scientific concepts by experimenting.

In addition to its lineup of natural science and history exhibits and laser and planetarium shows, the center has a towering Tyrannosaurus Rex as the centerpiece of its "Our Dynamic Earth," five permanent exhibits designed by Cranbrook scientists, artists and educators to encourage visitors of all ages to explore the connections within our universe.

"Scream Machines: The Science of Roller Coasters" head-spinning, stomach-churning interactive exhibits, artifacts and images invite visitors on a fun ride through science that ranges from physics to physiology to the psychology of thrill-seeking while revealing the rich history of roller coasters.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily and 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday. Admission is \$7 for adults ages 18-59, \$4 for children ages 3-17 and senior citizens ages 60 and older and free for children under age 3. There's an additional charge for the planetarium/astronomy shows of \$2 for adults, \$1.50 for chil-

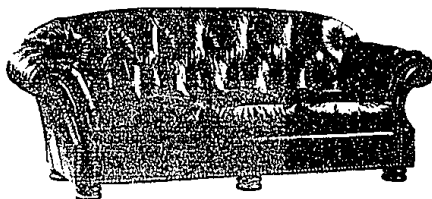
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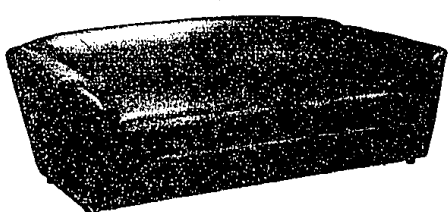
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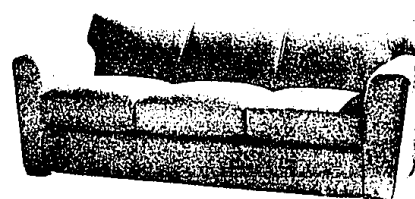
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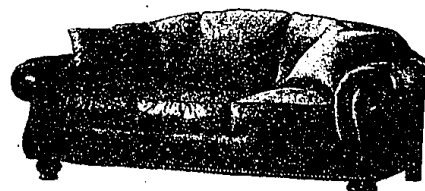
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