

CHAT ROOM



Tim Smith

'Geezer' meets Gap crowd at Dale Carnegie

OK, I admit I'm not a hip guy, which is something I don't apologize for, either. I don't get into rap, heavy metal, Limp Bizkit or anything the MTV crowd digs. See what I mean?

And to illustrate, I walked into the downtown Farmington Harmony House store recently to buy "Strange Times," the first all-new Moody Blues studio album in nearly a decade.

"Do you have that brand-new Moody Blues album?" I inquired.

Responded the teen clerk: "What kind of music would that be filed under?" To which I couldn't help but hallow, "Don't you know who the Moody Blues are? They recorded something like a hundred records!"

"Nope," smiled the clerk. "You know, 'Nights in White Satin' and 'Isn't Life Strange,' tunes like that?"

Blank stare.

Generation gap

That painfully obvious generation gap sometimes extends into Farmington Public Schools, part of my assigned news beat.

And, I admittedly was a little leery about spending three months with what I thought would be brash, disrespectful kids in a teen-adult Dale Carnegie class.

That class, taught in Farmington Hills, just ended.

Please See CHAT ROOM, B3

A passion for antique phonographs

■ From Edison to Victor to RCA, this collector has the earliest phonographs made for commercial use and the recordings to go with them.

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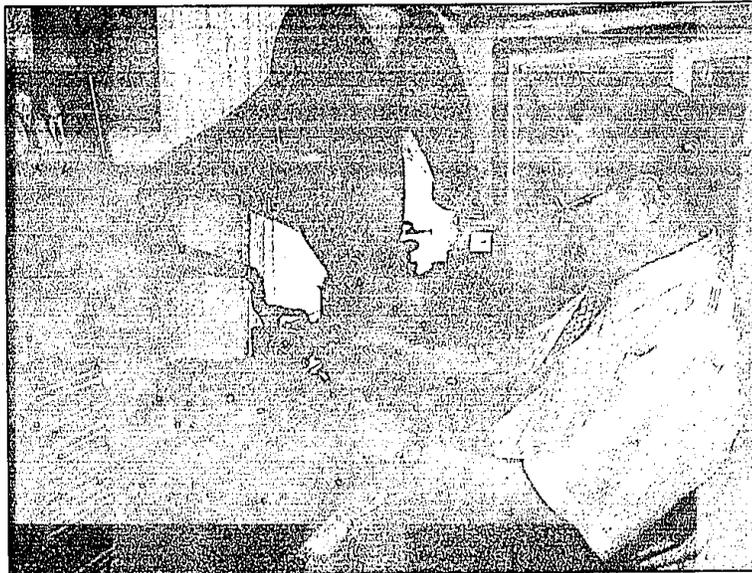
The excitement is palpable when Dr. Hyun Chan Shin of Farmington Hills shows his extensive antique phonograph collection to visitors.

Each of the more than 70 music players which occupy just about every room of his sprawling house is accompanied by a tiny plastic covered card listing model number and year of manufacture. From Edison to Victor to RCA, cylinder driven or disc playing, the mechanical music machines which date back to 1895 are in impeccable working condition.

"This hobby makes him very happy," says Soon Shin, his wife. She joins him in the weekend hunts scouring antique stores and estate sales as well as monthly Michigan Antique Phonograph Society meetings where they share information with other collectors. "My oldest piece is this 1895 Spring Motors invented by Edison," he says, pointing out one model sitting atop a cabinet in the dining room. "The phonograph was invented by Thomas Edison in 1887 but the first models were experimental. This was the first phonograph for home use."

A lifelong opera fan, Shin began his collection in earnest only 15 years ago. But he bought his first antique phonograph at a Novi fair shortly after he moved his family to the area from Korea in 1970. The Shins have lived in the same Farmington Hills home since 1978.

"Early on, I was busy working and training and didn't have time to be a serious collector," said Shin, a psychiatrist who practices in Detroit and Lincoln Park.



STAFF PHOTOS BY BILL BREZENA

Sound of music: Dr. Hyun Chan Shin of Farmington Hills began collecting old phonographs about 15 years ago. Today he has 70 phonographs dating back to the late 19th century.

"I love classical music, opera."

Fondness for Caruso

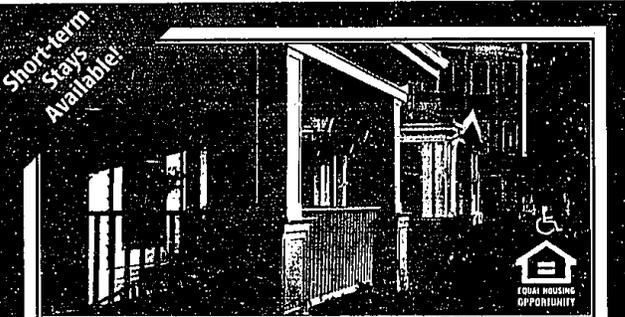
His favorite opera era is pro World War One. Entertainers like Enrico Caruso, the famous Italian tenor, and Australian soprano Nellie Melba are among his

favorite singers. In fact he has Caruso's first recording, dating back to 1902.

Shin also spends his spare time researching the era at the music library of the University of Michigan in

Ann Arbor and also the main branch of the Detroit Public Library near Wayne State University. He can spew facts and vignettes from that era quite hand-

Please See PHONOGRAPHS, B2



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