

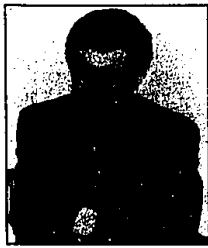
'50s icon Eddie Fisher entertains, delights JCC

BY DAN WEST
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Just by looking in the eyes of Danto Family Care Center residents and volunteers, it is obvious they are thrilled with the opportunity to see singer and 1950s playboy Eddie Fisher in person.

"Absolutely," said volunteer Sadie Maltzman. "He was one of my favorites."

Fisher will speak to a public gathering at 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 13 at the Kahn Building on the Jewish Community Center campus in West Bloomfield. His visit is traveling to pitch his new book, *Been There Done That*, a tell-all memoir about his Hollywood life. Fisher's appearance is



Eddie Fisher

part of the 48th Annual Jewish Book Fair, a nine-day event that begins Saturday.

In the book, Fisher talks about his social exploits, much-publicized marriages to Elizabeth Taylor and Debbie Reynolds and his drug addiction that nearly killed him.

Joyce Morof, 69, read the book and said she loved it.

"I believed most of it but I can't believe how active a sex life he had and how he could remember all that," Morof said. "He's a good singer with a great voice. He admitted he was drugged out of his mind during his money years."

Maltzman said Fisher was one of the most admired Jews in the United States early in his career, shortly after surfacing with his hit song, *Oh My Papa*.

"He was the pride of the Jew-

ish community until he started his shenanigans and problems," Maltzman said. "I think his fame went to his head and he had to be a macho man, that's why he may have been mixed up with such famous women."

At least 25 residents of the long-term care facilities on the JCC campus will attend Fisher's two-hour program, which includes questions and answers and an autograph session.

Geraldine Miller, 74, sings songs to her fellow residents at Danto while her daughter, Missy Manela, plays piano. Miller said she is "interested and intrigued" with the chance to see Fisher.

"He had a lovely voice," Miller said. "I only saw him on television until now. He was the only young thing on television at that time."

Danto Family Health Care Center is sponsoring Fisher's

appearance. Center spokeswoman Sandy Boykanskay said the program should be thrilling for the residents and others who grew up in the 1950s.

"I just think this is a real opportunity for seniors to see, in person, someone who was an icon in their day," Boykanskay said. "It'll be great to see them see him face-to-face."

"He was their golden boy."

War of words

Sparked by proposals for breaks from sales taxes

BY MIKE MALOTT
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Republicans and Democrats alike want to give Michigan residents a "holiday" from sales taxes.

But differing proposals have sparked a war of words in Lansing.

When House Taxation Committee Chair Rep. Nancy Cassis (R-Novi) unveiled plans for a two-week sales tax holiday on clothing during the back-to-school shopping season, Minority Leader Michael Hanley (D-Saginaw), criticized the proposal as a drain on the state school aid fund. Proposal A, after all, shifted the tax burden away from property taxes and replaced the money with an increase in sales taxes — the hike being dedicated to the state school fund.

"If Rep. Hanley is going to put a shot across the bow, it would be nice if he were aware of what members of his own caucus — 19 of them — are up to," Cassis fired back.

STATE NEWS

She was referring to a plan by Rep. Samuel "Buz" Thomas III (D-Detroit) to also offer a sales tax holiday, co-sponsored by 19 House Democrats. Thomas' plan calls for a one-day holiday on all taxable items.

While she anticipates her plan could cost the state budget anywhere from \$16 million to \$28 million in lost sales tax revenues, according to estimates provided by the House Fiscal Agency, Cassis said Thomas' plan could cost the state \$100 million or more.

"It's irresponsible. It's never been done before. We have nothing to model it on," she said.

Although for only a day, Cassis said she would anticipate that residents would hold off purchases of big ticket items, such as cars and home entertainment systems, in order to get the break on sales taxes. While she said her plan is aimed at helping families with the purchase of

necessities during back-to-school shopping, she said Thomas' plan would allow shoppers to get the break on luxury items as well.

House Bill 4862 would exempt clothing from sales taxes for one week before and one week after the Labor Day holiday. The exemption would be capped at \$500 per individual article of clothing — amounts over that would be subject to Michigan's 6 percent sales tax. She said similar plans have been adopted in New York, New Jersey, Texas and Florida.

House Bill 4660 would allow one day off from sales taxes on all items.

The state budget is expected to produce a surplus of \$380 million in the current fiscal year. Extra funds in school aid money are expected to reach \$500 million next year.

The budget surplus has members on both sides of the aisle looking for breaks to return money to taxpayers in various bills likely to be considered early next year.

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