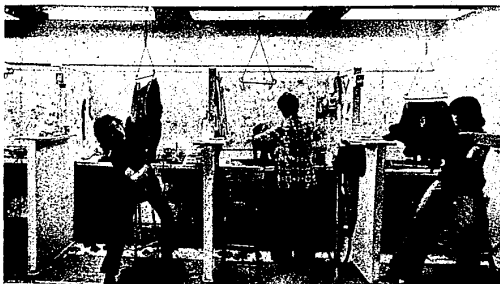


Groomers, at right, put the final touches on their canine clients in their canvas slings; and below, Diane Podell carefully trims hair from a poodle's leg.



# Parlors for a pampered poodle

By SHIRLEE IDEN

Every dog has its day. At Balhove's Poodle Salon that means grooming 175 dogs each week. "Last year we groomed over 10,000 dogs, and we expect to do over 11,000 this year," said Howard Ballweg, proprietor of the canine beauty salon.

BALLWEG and his wife, Alma, have been in the poodle grooming business for 15 years.

The couple bought a poodle "to start getting the house alive again" when their three children were grown and independent.

Starting with one dog, they quickly purchased two more.

KNOWING THAT poodles have to be trimmed often, Mrs. Ballweg learned to trim the dogs herself.

"I started on my own dogs," she said, "but soon word got around and I had more customers than I could handle in my home."

"We didn't know there were so many poodles looking for a good, kind place to be trimmed."

AS THEIR business grew, the Ballwegs found it necessary to train their own groomers to their own standards.

"It wasn't long before the girls were so good that the vets and pet shops hired them away. We lost many girls that way," he said.

"SOME WENT to work other places. Some opened their own shops.

"We have eight groomers right now," he said, "and two more who we can call if we get swamped."

BALLWEG said the average groomer does five or six trims a day.

"One of our girls could easily do seven," he said, "but we limit the number to keep up the quality of the cuts."

The salon's customers come in all sizes from toys to standards and in every imaginable color.

Although it's called a poodle salon, Balhove's grooms most any kind of dog.

HOW DOES the average person get into a job like poodle grooming?

DIANE PODELL has been a groomer for nine years.

"I've always been interested in animals," she said "and when I got the opportunity to learn grooming, I took it."

"I love my job."

Diane says it's important to love your work, because the dogs are frightened and the operators must be sympathetic.

Ballweg said it's like a beauty shop. "If a customer doesn't like the trim, they ask for another operator."

"Many of our customers have been coming to us for more than a decade," Ballweg said.

"WE HAVE several blind dogs who know our voices. We try to give them to the same operator on each visit."



The average poodle is groomed every six to eight weeks, and it takes the groomer about an hour to do each animal.

Owners have a choice of styles. There are kennel cuts, lion cuts, puppy cuts, lamb cuts, Hollywood cuts...almost as many hairstyles as the human owners wear.

THE FIRST step in dog grooming is to "rough" the animal or trim the fur into the approximate style desired.

Then comes a thorough bath. "The dogs are placed in canvas slings for the final trimming."

At Balhove's the dogs are "stretch dried" which means they're brushed continuously while their coat is dried by a warm air blower.

"They look like velvet when they're done," one groomer said.

Ballweg said he allows no tranquilizers in his shop "just kindness."

"TENDER, loving care is our main ingredient," he said.

"Often we spot some ailment that the owner may be unaware of. Poodles, for instance, are subject to ear infections."

"We write it on the bill," he said. "If we think a dog has some contagious ailment, we won't work on

them and call the customer to pick them up."

Customers can choose a toy, collar, or a new sweater or boots for their pet as they leave.

With more than 20 dogs being worked on or waiting to be picked up, the salon was a pretty quiet place.

Fritz, Frankie, Coco, Lady, Pompei, and Muffet seemed to be thoroughly enjoying their day at the beauty shop.

The Observer & Eccentric

## PEOPLE

Monday, April 8, 1974

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# Chowin' down

Your feast may be another's fetish

By MARY CONNELLY

Bread and butter slices garnished by rose petals... beef gravy poured over German chocolate cake...

Some tastebuds hanker for cottage cheese topped with maple syrup. Others crave peanut butter and sauerkraut or peanut butter and Limburger cheese sandwiches.

ALTHOUGH THE gastro-intestinal tracts of pregnant women have taken the rap for off-beat eating habits, their ranks are swelled with people whose tastes find delight in unlikely matings.

Some mouths water for dry uncooked oatmeal with sugar in the morning. Others anticipate sitting down to raw buttered lettuce or ketchup on toast.

Peanut butter is a real swinger among culinary experimenters and has been mixed with apples, bananas, onions, marshmallows and mustard.

SHOPPERS AT Oakland Mall, Troy, dug the following ideas out of

their diets when interviewed last week.

- Cold spinach with sour cream eaten from a glass;
- Bacon, lettuce, tomato, peanut butter and jelly between bread;
- Salads made with dandelion greens (from your home's lawn), doused with oil and vinegar dressing;
- Peanut butter and Bermuda onion sandwiches;
- Raw cauliflower moistened with Italian salad dressing;
- Peanut butter and apple sandwiches seasoned with mayonnaise and salt;
- Ketchup on macaroni and cheese;
- Ketchup on soda crackers;
- Ketchup on everything;
- Banana and mayonnaise between bread;
- Lettuce and mayonnaise between bread;
- Sardines and salami on crackers;
- Peanut butter smoothed on dill pickles;
- Pickles and banana slices nestled in a peanut butter sandwich.

And one woman admitted eating bread, butter and rose petals. The snack was offered by a friend at afternoon tea.

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By CHRISTINE WALDEN

Bob Talbert stepped up to the podium and surprised a lot of people. That smiling and until recently, slim-faced man seen daily in the Detroit Free Press is really a curly haired, somewhat chunky fellow. That man who seems native to Detroit speaks with a Southern drawl.

But when talks about children, people and politics, you know it's the same guy because Bob Talbert in real life is just like Bob Talbert in the newspaper.

In his column Talbert combines amusing anecdotes with viable words of wisdom - a combination that can lead to a well-taken point. On April 3 as the Rochester Town Hall speaker, he used his talents to portray communication problems and how to overcome them.

"We've replaced conversation with complaining," he said. "If you listen, there are very few positive conversations."

WHEN NOT complaining, people

frequently limit conversations to TV, sports, jobs, food, children, clothing or the home. "I think we are more than that," said Talbert.

Nondescript words can destroy communication, he said. "We have to eliminate the fat from our communication. Trite expressions are bad. If you think something is trite it is. Groping phrases are bad. When you say 'what I'm trying to get at' or 'let me make one thing perfectly clear' that's fat in your conversation and you shouldn't use it."

Words must be specific and picturesque. They must also be used wisely.

"I could make all of you either love me or hate me with one phrase," he said. "I could say, and you would hate me, 'you've got a face that would stop a clock.' But what if I said 'you have a face that makes time stand still.' It's the same damn thing."

HUMOR, SAID Talbert, is essential to communication. "We must discover

laughter and share it. It's as necessary as thinking. And these days, we don't have much to laugh about."

We can, however, laugh - at our selves. And Talbert sets a good example. Following a rare introduction, he stepped on the stage and quipped, "Now my head is as big as my rear end."

Or admitting he liked attention, he added, "why else would I wear a blue leather suit?"

MUCH OF HIS humor comes from children, who "sometimes do the best communicating." Children eliminate the fat in conversation. Adults should take a lesson, he advised.

"I have people tell me that they just can't talk to their son or daughter anymore. My standard answer is: 'Have you tried listening.' Let the kids know that you don't really know something about them. That you want them to know you're interested. That you would like to find out something about your own child. That's what communicating is all about."

Keep it simple, says Talbert