

## chris walden



Well, it's finally over. No more explaining the bruises on my arms and legs or attempting to cover the red lace marks on my knee caps with make-up. And absolutely, no more wondering whether my teeth would remain in tact from one day to the next.

The softball season has ground to a halt; my uniform is retired; my mitt, finally broken in, now lies dormant in the hall closet and my body is returning to normal.

Frankly I was never nuts about baseball in any form. Though I spent many youthful hours playing the game with neighborhood kids, it was never a sport I wanted to pursue. That I agreed to play was a surprise to me, but I figure it would be good exercise and better than a summer of doing nothing.

Little did I know. While women's slowpitch softball isn't exactly a rough and

tough sport, it is not for a body whose only regular exercise is walking back and forth to the refrigerator.

Early I learned that running fast brings into focus muscles I didn't know existed. And after making their presence painfully felt and being totally against inflicting bodily harm on myself, I thereafter decided to walk from base to base.

Further, softball is an erroneous name. The ball is not soft, especially when it lands in the mitt, the chin or the knee. My first discovery of this came when the ball bounced off the infield and hit the bottom of my chin, slamming my mouth shut so hard I was sure there would be teeth protruding from my skull. I was lucky though and the only result of that hit was not being able to chew my usual three wads of bubble gum.

NONETHELESS I knew survival was the name of the game and remaining unscathed was my only goal. I didn't care who won or lost, providing I didn't get hurt in the process. As a result any ball that came toward me continued on past. While this proved complementary to my philosophy, my teammates were rather distraught with my techniques.

There is one other area the ball will hit frequently, particularly if you are the catcher. Though the area isn't exactly my pride and joy anyway, I still wanted to avoid catching the softball in the chest. After the first few times, I started ducking, allowing the umpire to catch the flying object and figuring he had less to lose than I did.

My times at bat weren't much better.

The first time out I followed instructions to a tee. Back leg bent, front leg straight (or was it the other way around?) arms poised, eyes on the ball, when they yelled "swing" I did. It wasn't until three swings later that I realized the opposing team was doing the yelling.

All of the above were reason enough to place me firmly on the bench. From there I cheered my team onto the championship and watched amazed as my teammates obtained one injury after another.

(One woman walked away with a

broken bone after catching a ball from another teammate, whose prowess on the field should have put her on the Mets rather than Jericho Electric.

ANOTHER team member spent several minutes before each game, wrapping an ankle that went bad at the beginning of the season.

Toward the end bandages became part of the uniform, usually wrapped around the thigh.

Other teammates complained of nervous stomachs, sore thumbs, blisters, bruises and scrapes. It was the first time I was happy to be left out, my only complaint being a sore derriere and a raspy, hoarse voice.

Actually the injuries were only a small part of the season and most of the time it was great fun, even as a spectator and even when we lost.

But I figure if I play next year (they haven't asked me back yet), I will either invest in some rubber padding or get a chest guard, face guard and leg guard and settle down to play some real ball.



### SALE

Simmons Hide-A-Bed... a compact 69" sofa that opens to a 52"x75" Simmons innerspring mattress. Comfortable sleeping for two and a handsome piece of furniture. Covered in olefin, a colorful woven fabric in earth-tones that simply won't absorb dirt, so the surface can be wiped clean with a damp soapy cloth. A convenient solution for extra sleeping accommodation, den or guest room. And available at excellent savings. \$299

## Jacobson's

Woodward at Willits  
Birmingham

Telegraph at Maple  
Bloomfield Plaza

### 20% OFF

## LAMP SHADES

THRU AUGUST!

Hand Sewn Shades

by  
Custom Shade Makers

Shadowless, all hand sewn lamp shades by Custom Shade Makers. Made of extra fine antique satin... to give an elegant look! Fully washable. White or eggshell.

## LAMPCRAFT

Please bring your lamps when buying replacement shades.  
Mon.-Sat. 9:30 to 5:30

TWO LOCATIONS

4312  
N. Woodward  
Royal Oak Between  
12 and 14 Mile Rds.  
549-1399

135 Romeo Rd.  
Slightly E. of  
Rochester Rd.  
1 Light N. of Willits  
Romeo Rd.  
651-5714

## Problems workshop planned

A two-day workshop called "Problems of Daily Living" will be held Saturday and Sunday in the Southfield Center of Wayne State University's College of Lifelong Learning.

The workshop is designed by Jane Ralitt, program coordinator of the college's Women's Studies Program, and is open to women only. Marlene Miller of the Women's Studies staff is instructor.

"If you want to become a more effective, decisive person, this is the workshop for you," said Ms. Miller who will focus on interaction, communications and decision making in the class sessions.

"Through class exercises, movies and small group interaction, participants will be able to improve their communication skills, as well as increase their problem-solving ability," she said.

Topics such as active listening, ego-speak, body language and priority setting will also be explored.

The college is located at 25610 W. Eleven Mile. Workshop hours are from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. each day. The workshop is non-credit. Registrations may be made by calling the center or in person.

FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

# SAVE FROM 31 TO 40%

## OFF 16 PIECE SETS OF GORHAM STERLING

Acquire it today... for a beautiful tomorrow.

16 piece service for four (4 each - teaspoon, place knife, place fork and individual salad fork)

CHOOSE FROM 23 GORHAM ORIGINALS

SAVE 31% - GROUP II	Regular Price	Sale Price	Save
Place Size	\$530.00	\$360.00	\$170.00
Dinner Size	\$630.00	\$397.50	\$232.50

SAVE 37% - GROUP III	Regular Price	Sale Price	Save
Place Size	\$700.00	\$360.00	\$340.00
Dinner Size	\$820.00	\$397.50	\$422.50

SAVE 40% - GROUP IV	Regular Price	Sale Price	Save
Place Size	\$600.00	\$360.00	\$240.00
Dinner Size	\$654.00	\$397.50	\$256.50

Set No.	Set Name	Set No.	Set Name	Set No.	Set Name
1	16 Piece Service for Four	11	16 Piece Service for Four	21	16 Piece Service for Four
2	16 Piece Service for Four	12	16 Piece Service for Four	22	16 Piece Service for Four
3	16 Piece Service for Four	13	16 Piece Service for Four	23	16 Piece Service for Four
4	16 Piece Service for Four	14	16 Piece Service for Four		
5	16 Piece Service for Four	15	16 Piece Service for Four		
6	16 Piece Service for Four	16	16 Piece Service for Four		
7	16 Piece Service for Four	17	16 Piece Service for Four		
8	16 Piece Service for Four	18	16 Piece Service for Four		
9	16 Piece Service for Four	19	16 Piece Service for Four		
10	16 Piece Service for Four	20	16 Piece Service for Four		



# SAVE 25 PERCENT ON ALL OPEN STOCK!

Whether you buy a single teaspoon, a serving piece or a complete place setting.

NOW is the time to take advantage of a combination of these offers - purchase two 16 pc. sets for service for eight at savings up to 40%. Also buy necessary place or serving pieces at 25% off.

**DON'T WAIT - GORHAM STERLING NEVER GROWS OLD - ONLY MORE VALUABLE**

## WIGGS

4080 Telegraph  
(at Long Lake Rd.)

of Bloomfield Hills

open Mon., Thurs. & Fri. 'til 9  
• 644-7270 •

"Hey, kids!  
C'mon down to the  
ORCHARD MALL  
and watch me perform magic!  
See my TV skits, watch me  
play ball, and do all sorts of  
tricks! I can even bat a ball!"

## KOKOMO, JR.

America's Favorite TV Chimp  
will be appearing at

## ORCHARD MALL

August 14, 15, 16  
Thursday, Friday, Saturday

SHOWTIMES:

Thursday and Friday 1, 3, and 7 p.m.  
Saturday 11, 2 and 4 p.m.

## om ORCHARD MALL

MAPLE and ORCHARD LAKE ROADS. WEST BLOOMFIELD