

Ancient sphinx exhibit displayed at art institute

By ELMER E. WHITE

A lion's body and human head, dating 2,500 years into the past. Sunday brunch accompanied by a live performance of Bach in a delightful garden setting.

Van Gogh, John Singer Sargent, 3000 art objects from all major civilizations. Michigan folks can find all this and more this summer—right in their own territory—the Detroit Institute of Arts. The special Sphinx exhibit outlines the changing face of that ancient demon, which rests on Egypt's Giza Plateau. Present on hand is the creature, about 65 feet high and 130 feet long, was made at the time the pyramids were built, as a part of a fourth dynasty king. But it is of multipurpose significance, explains William H. Peck, curator of ancient art. He says the Sphinx also represents the Egyptian sun god and the alert crouching posture makes the Sphinx a guardian figure for the royal tombs at Giza.

That exhibit, detailing the more than 4,000 years of efforts to maintain the natural limestone carving runs through Sept. 5. Other exciting happenings at the institute include:

- Performances of the hit musical, "The Fantasticks" preceded by a candlelight supper, through Sunday, Aug. 8. Cost a \$12.50 per reserved seat.
- An exhibit of 100 prints, drawings, pho-

tographs and book illustrations depicting the nature of English graphic art, through Aug. 29.

Special concerts, gifts from throughout the world at the Museum Shop and the peace and quiet of a cool, uncrowded adventure into art.

To set the record straight—some confusion arose after recent budget problems—the institute is open five days a week, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, and 10 p.m. Friday.

Museum admission is free. State and local funds as well as private contributions help finance the Institute. There are, of course, charges for the brunch concert and dinner theater performances, and the institute accepts contributions of all kinds. Located in Detroit's Cultural Center, near the Wayne State University campus, the institute is within blocks of major freeways, I-96, I-75, and I-94. There's plenty of reasonably priced parking nearby.

How about that for a man-vacation?

FULL POLITICAL rights for public employees, tempered by common sense safeguards against conflict of interest, are assured under new Michigan law.

They are, it seems, unless a court decides otherwise. Legislation sponsored by Democrat Howard Wolpe of Kalamazoo was signed into law by Gov. William Milliken. The bill

allows public employees at the state and local level to participate in all partisan political activities, including running for political office, as long as these activities are undertaken on their own time.

State employees would be required to take a leave of absence to run for state office, and local governmental units can impose the same requirement on employees running for office within the political subdivision that employs them.

Problems crop up when state employees are considered.

State Civil Service Commission Chairman Ruth Robertson has said her group has authority to regulate all conditions of employment in the classified service.

Wolpe acknowledges that constitutional authority but says it does not extend to the employees' private lives.

The new law does not cover local government workers hired with federal funds, because federal law prohibits partisan political activity on their part. But they can, however, run for nonpartisan office.

THEN YOU say em. Now you don't! It's a case of the vanishing billboards. Some 20,000 of the sizable commercial signs have disappeared from Michigan's state highways in the past three years, since the Legislature passed a billboard control law in 1973. You can even tell now that there's greenery next to the road in some spots.

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Sarah Power chairs U.S. commission

Sarah Goddard Power has been elected chairwoman of the U.S. National Commission for UNESCO.

Mrs. Power replaces Rosemary Gen, recently appointed by President Ford as American ambassador to Luxembourg.

The commission is a 50-member body of individuals and non-governmental organizations created by Congress in 1966 to advise the U.S. government on UNESCO's programs and budget and to carry out programs in the fields of education, science and culture.

Mrs. Power is married to Philip H. Power, chairman of the board of Suburban Communications Corp. and co-publisher of Observer & Eccentric. Newspapers. They reside in Ann Arbor.

She is a regent of the University of Michigan. Graduated from Vassar College and New York University, her previous professional experience includes work for Vice President Nelson Rockefeller when he was governor of New York. She also worked for former New York City Mayor John Lindsay and with the New York City Commission for the United Nations and for the Council on Foreign Relations.

Mrs. Power has been a member of the U.S. National Commission for UNESCO since June 1973 and a vice-chairwoman since December 1973. She is a director of the United Nations Association of the United States of America and a director of the Associate Alumnae of Vassar College.

Take care with checks

Personal checks make life more convenient for you but care should be taken that your checks don't get misused.

Michigan Atty Gen Frank Kelley has some tips for check users. First, he says, making the check out to "Cash" should be avoided. This enables anyone, be he thief or friend to cash it. Also a check with a blank endorsement one with a simple signature can risk, then anyone in possession of it. Don't sign it until you're at the teller's window.

If it is necessary to endorse the check in advance, write "for deposit only" or similar instructions on the back.

Another common mistake is discrepancies between the numerical amount indicated and the amount written out on personal checks. The written amount always prevails over the numerical.

If a check is over six months old, it's probably not worth a red cent anyway, as banks customarily refuse them.

Kelley adds that a bank wrongfully refusing to cash your check must reimburse any losses incurred, such as late fees or additional interest.

And don't forget to check your monthly statement for unauthorized signatures and alterations. It can only help you.

Birmingham studies street improvements

The Birmingham City Commission will hold a public hearing at 8 p.m. Aug. 30 to consider resurfacing four streets.

The streets are Sheffield from Woodward to 12th, Washington from Lincoln to Fourteen Mile, Northlawn from Stanley to Washington, and Southlawn from Stanley to East.

Most of the resurfacing costs would be assessed against a building property owners. The meeting will be held in city hall, 151 Martin.

Only 8 pupils

The smallest school district in the state is Bow Blaine Pine School District on Bow Blaine island near the Straits of Mackinac, according to the state board of education. It has eight pupils.

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