

Energy concerns inspire a contest for youth

Sun Day isn't just another day of the week. It's on May 3 and will mark a national celebration of the solar age. Sponsored by environmental groups around the nation, the day is designed to focus attention on the sun and its obvious potential for providing energy. As the energy crunch tightens, scientists are looking more to the sun as a clean, efficient source of energy.

But even the scientists need a hand in developing ways to better use solar energy—and some of the best ideas come from the young.

That's why the Observer and Eccentric newspapers are co-sponsoring a children's drawing contest along with two local environmental groups, Concern Inc. Detroit and the Eastern Michigan Environmental Action Coun-

cil (EMEAC). We're looking for ideas on how the sun can warm—or cool—our lives.

"I think children may have interesting ideas on solar energy as being the safe, clean energy of the future," said Sarah McCann of EMEAC.

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Young artists in grades four through

eight are invited to make a drawing, collage or painting which depicts ways in which the sun provides energy for us today or could in the future. Entries should be mailed or sent to the nearest Observer or Eccentric newspaper office by April 21.

Twelve finalists will be selected from each newspaper circulation area. They will compete for the top three prizes of a 10-speed bike, donated by Kmart; a skateboard, donated by Don Thomas Sports; and a backpack donated by Benchmark.

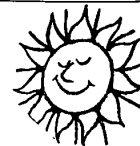
The contest rules are simple. Artwork should be done on a nine-inch by 12-inch sheet of paper or a nine-inch by 18-inch sheet. On the reverse side, include the following information: name, address, phone number, age,

school, grade and teacher's name. Drawings will be judged by a panel of scientists and artists for content and artistic technique. The nine runners-up will receive honorable mention prizes.

Drop off entries to one of the following offices:

- *Plymouth Observer, 461 S. Main, Plymouth 48170;
- *Livonia, Garden City, Westland and Redford Observer office, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150;
- *Southfield-Farmington office, 22170 W. Nine Mile, Southfield 48037;
- *Birmingham, West Bloomfield and Troy office, 1225 Bowers, Birmingham 48012;
- *Rochester office, 615 S. Main, Rochester 48026.

Sun Day Drawing Contest



Name.....

Address.....

City.....

School.....

Teacher.....

Age..... Telephone.....

Take entries to
Observer & Eccentric offices
22170 W. Nine Mile
Southfield

David Mesenbring delivers message from South Africa

By SHERRY KAHAN

David Mesenbring is experiencing a sense of relief now that he is home in Farmington, after a two-year stay in South Africa.

But he also has a feeling of pain. "It is painful when friends of yours are picked up at 3 a.m. and detained by the government," he said. "So while it is a relief to get away from that kind of atmosphere, there also is the pain of leaving the people I was close to."

"I don't know which is worse, to get a phone call with the news of an arrest, or not hearing about it at all."

Mesenbring, who was in South Africa during a wave of oppression against blacks last fall, has been talking about his experiences in local churches, telling about his friend Steve Biko, who died last September, and who many believe was murdered.

He spoke yesterday in Hope Lutheran Church, in Farmington, where his father, the Rev. Victor Mesenbring, is pastor.

He has a master's degree in theology from University of Chicago, and found that working with South African religious groups was a good way to meet people in that troubled country.

"THERE WERE TWO MAJOR groups of Christians," he said. "There were the historical churches like the Anglican, Methodist and Catholic, and the African Independent Church. I tried to work in both."

"But I was disillusioned with the historical religions. I felt the grass roots Christians were in the independent churches. They took the traditional African culture and Christianized it in an authentic African way."

"In the west we have developed God's word, and we're weak in the spirit. In the independent churches I met people who had a profound understanding of God's spirit."

"I was not a teacher, but I could share with them what I knew about the word, and they offered me what they knew about the spirit."

MESENBRING MET STEVE BIKO through a mutual friend.

"My friend told me Biko and I would like each other," recalled the former North Farmington High School student. "Biko was one of the most unracist individuals I've encountered. He didn't see me as a white man, but judged me on my own terms."

After the young black leader's death, Mesenbring was involved with helping collect papers about Biko, as well as Biko's own writings to be used in a soon-to-be-published biography.

"A man who was kicked out of the country asked me to do this for him," said Mesenbring. "So, I talked to groups who had the material he needed. I have to be vague about this because some of those who gave me information could get in trouble."

Biko's main contribution to blacks living in South Africa was to start a black consciousness movement. It was not a political movement but one designed to instill a mood, and to overcome black inferiority, Mesenbring pointed out.

"A number of different organizations sprang from it, such as medical clinics run by blacks, cottage industries and other programs to meet blacks' needs."

"No question that Biko was the genius behind it. He felt that even if the government cracked down on black organizations, black consciousness would continue."

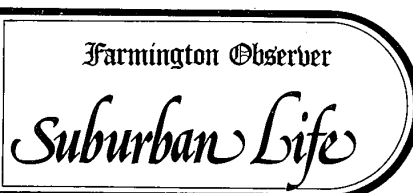
Mesenbring then noted that last October, 17 black organizations were banned. But six weeks later, three new ones had already taken their place.

MESENBRING WENT TO South Africa to teach at St. Bede Anglican Seminary, but he purposefully found a variety of jobs. He thought different kinds of employment would take him into interesting corners of the country.

While writing a correspondence course on South African church history, he made his home in a rural area where he learned to speak Xhosa. Often called the click language, Xhosa



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uses three different click sounds in place of the letters C, Q and X.

"Learning the language is the only way to make contact with people," he said. "You can't understand their way of life unless you talk to them."

"With rural people I got the sense that they still had their sense of dignity, that they believe in their own way of life. Urban blacks have been broken down by being inundated by white values."

He also traveled to various areas

with a religious education extension course.

In his second year, he lived in the home of a prominent African journalist, a descendant of early Dutch settlers. Afrikaners, he says, basically run the country.

"The Afrikaners were persecuted by the English back in the days of the Boer War, and it resulted in a build up in their national spirit," said Mesenbring. "Yet they don't seem to understand that their persecution of the

blacks is building in the blacks that same kind of spirit."

The British tried to stop the Afrikaners from speaking their own language, and it was the source of great bitterness. Today the Afrikaners are trying to force blacks to learn Afrikaans.

Mesenbring was indefinite about his future, except for the fact that he would someday like to live in South Africa under conditions different from those existing today.



Working on a theological education extension program gave David Mesenbring (right) the chance to visit the homes of many Africans. Here he stops for a chat with Mhlambi Dumeke.

Hypnotist comes to Beechview

Beechview Elementary School's PTO hosts Southfield hypnotist James Hoke at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the school, at 2650 Westmeath. The fundraiser will help provide money for educational equipment and programs at the school.

Hoke specializes in weight and smoking control and will use audience volunteers in his performance tomorrow.

Tickets are \$2 each, sold at the door. The hypnotist taught modern hypnosis and self-hypnosis at Delta College in Saginaw before going into private practice. He holds degrees from Adrian College, Thomas Edison College, in Florida, from Ethical Hypnosis Training Center in New Jersey, and the American Institute of Hypnosis in Los Angeles.

He is certified in psychotherapeutic analysis and a graduate of Palm Beach Psychotherapy Training Center.



JAMES HOKE

Michelle will vie for state teen title

By LORRAINE MCCLISH

A young miss who cheerleads for Harrison High School has been selected as a state finalist in the 1978 Michigan National Teenager Pageant.

Michelle Stacey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Stacey of 3630 Orchard Lake, was chosen to compete for the title, after preliminary judging of more than 1,500 entrants.

The dark-haired beauty, 16, is a professional model, skis, canoes, plays tennis and racquet ball, and can hit a golf ball 200 yards.

On May 14, she will vie in the pageant at Eastern Michigan University's Pease Auditorium, judged on scholastic achievement, leadership qualities, poise, personality and appearance.

There is no swim suit or talent competition, but each contestant will participate in the National Teenager Volunteer Service Program, and each will recite a 100-word speech on what's right about America.

MRS. GEORGE Scarborough, who co-chairs the national pageant with her husband, says, "The pageant is not a beauty pageant, but an organization designed to recognize teenagers of today who are striving to maintain high standards of citizenship."

The winner of the Michigan title will be given a \$200 cash scholarship, a Bertrion modeling scholarship, and a



MICHELLE STACEY

trip to Atlanta, Ga., to compete in the Miss National Teenager Pageant in August.

Ms. Stacey is sponsored by Mike Kojan of Mike's Quality Fruit Market, on Twelve Mile and Southfield Road; Stan Wilk, owner of Star Lincoln-Mercury, 3630 Twelve Mile; and her father, Almo Mortgage and Realty, in Farmington Hills.

What's up. What's down. What's all around. It's Designer/Sportswear Week at SFA Troy, Somerset Mall. And here's what's happening:

Monday, March 20th—All the sizzle and sleek under the sun is in our collection of fabulous sun-shapes. Mailots to bikinis, caltans to jumpsuits. Everything to whisk you from water's edge to candle-glow...informally modeled from 11 to 4 in our Sand and Sea Shop.

Tuesday, March 21st—Cacharel...relaxed! All their delicious sundresses, swinging skirts, airy blouses, jackets and charming tees—plus some totally new, totally splendid Cacharel attitudes—informally modeled from 11 to 3 in Designer Sportswear, Mall Level.

Wednesday, March 22nd—Clean, classic, wondrously elegant Ralph Lauren. How we love him and all his sensational sportswear. Catch informal modeling from 11 to 4—an exciting mini-show at 1—in Designer's Sportswear, Mall Level. And you'll forever be a Lauren devotee.

Thursday, March 23rd—The clothes the pros choose. Top-seeded sports-stuff through and through. Whether it's on-court or off-court, we've got the gear to get your game all together...to dazzle you from 11 to 4 when there's informal modeling in our Active Sportswear Shop.

Saks Fifth Avenue

Troy, Somerset Mall, Big Beaver at Coolidge