

# Couple to take gerontology tour of Scandinavia

By Sylvia O'Neill  
special writer

Boaz Kahana's eyes shine with enthusiasm when he talks about the gerontology tour he and his wife are planning to Scandinavia this summer.

It's easy to picture the Oakland University psychology professor as a champion of senior citizens, ready to defend their right of independence and fight off the encroaching enemies of isolation, helplessness and abandonment.

Boaz and Eva Kahana, a sociology professor at Wayne State University and director of the Elderly Care Research Center in Detroit, plan to lead a group of 25 on the summer tour.

They will focus on special environments, services and programs for the aged offered in Sweden, Norway, Finland and Denmark.

"We want to show people the array of richness of services, the well-planned and thought-out services the aged get in Scandinavian countries," said Kahana, who is also director of the Mental Health and Aging Training Program at Wayne State and Oakland universities.

The 17-day tour includes visits to Scandinavian nursing homes, community centers and special housing facilities for the elderly. The Southfield couple lecture throughout the trip, but are careful to include free time for sightseeing.

**TOURISTS TRAVEL** by private bus

and are escorted by a special guide who is involved with geriatrics and is familiar with both Scandinavian and American cultures.

The literary calls for the group to travel from Stockholm to Helsinki overnight aboard a cruise ship.

The Kahanas have lead three similar study tours to the Scandinavian countries, Israel, Ireland, Scotland and England.

Past tourists have included people interested in or employed in the varied branches of gerontology: social workers, psychologists, nurses, recreational and activity therapists, students, physicians and nursing home administrators.

"It's a mutual adventure. We learn from each other," Ms. Kahana said. "It's an intergenerational experience. We have people from their 20s to their 70s."

Scandinavians pay more taxes than we do, which enables their government to heavily invest in the care of the aged, Kahana explained.

"They have much more elaborate social services than here," he said. "They have invested a lot of time and energy to take care of the needs of the aged the way they need to be taken care of."

"In these countries, the state will furnish the house to accommodate the person's decline. For instance, if a person suffered a stroke, the state would rent his house," said Kahana.

"THEY HAVE more flexible programs," added Mrs. Kahana. "If a person cannot live independently here, we put them in the nursing home. We don't have day care programs for the elderly or various housing programs, programs that help cope with their disabilities instead of institutionalizing them."

"I hope that people going on the trip will see innovations, weigh them and implement them," said Kahana.

One of the innovations the psychology professor found unique during his past tours was the addition of chapels to nursing homes. Not used to pray, the chapels are designed so that others in the home can say a last goodbye to deceased residents.

Another unique aspect of Scandinavian services for the aged is the inclusion of men in handicrafts that help keep the elderly happy and busy. Men are encouraged to join in woodworking activities just as women are encouraged to knit and embroider.

"What amazes me is not just their programs for the elderly, but the way the culture care for the elderly," Ms. Kahana said.

"They are much more cognizant and aware of the aged and the aging process. They are much more in touch with their elderly," agreed Kahana.

HE POINTED out that Scandinavian seniors are well known in their neighborhoods because the government provides parks and benches where elderly

can gather. They remain a visible faction of society.

"The trouble with our industrialized cities is we don't have these little parks where they can get together," said Kahana. "They often feel instead they must lock themselves up in their apartments."

He thinks huge malls in our country make the elderly feel lost, but is encouraged by the store front shops that invited the aged in for coffee, donuts and conversation.

He also is impressed with the way Scandinavians work through the barrier of senility.

"A real relationship develops through love, caring and understanding. The aide or doctor has not given up hope. They see this as a human being who needs to be talked to, listened to," Kahana explained.

He has tried to implement this reaching out to patients, here, suggesting that nursing home staff personnel ask patients to tell them more about themselves.

For more information, contact Eva Kahana at 577-3308.

## FLOOR SAMPLE CLEARANCE NOW IN PROGRESS



Since 1937

A Beautiful Store with Beautiful Furniture

America's most distinguished traditional furniture

**Colonial House**

20292 Middlebelt Rd. (South of Eight Mile)

Livonia

Open Mon., Thurs. & Fri. 'Til 9 P.M.

474-6900

## Dick's Pine Crafts

Handcrafted Early American

Furniture and Accessories

PINE AND HARDWOODS

— ARCHITECTURAL DETAILING —

FIREPLACE MANTELS • INTERIOR RAISED

PANEL SHUTTERS • WAINSCOTING

459-0530

WORKSHOP & SHOWROOM: 41727 JOY RD.

CANTON, MI 48107



TENTS

THERE'S A LOT

GONE ON

Observer & Eccentric

classified ads

## SPRING INTO SHAPE AT THE STADIUM

Featuring- Mini Skirts  
Aerobic Dancewear  
Tennis Clothes - Tail & Adolfo  
Hand Painted Warmups

THE STADIUM  
31025 Orchard Lk. Rd.  
Hunters Square  
Farmington Hills

20%

## DISCOUNT FABRIC MERCHANTS FABRIC LIQUIDATION SALE

Check our selection of over 100,000 yards of fabric at savings of

70%

### DRAPERY FABRIC

Decorative Antique Satins and  
Sheers...Solids, textures, slubs-all  
color selection

Casements...solids, textures, multi-  
weaves, linens, etc.

\$1.00 YD.

\$2.00 YD.

### DRESS FABRIC

Designer Prints and Solids...Creme de  
Chen, Velours, Terrys, Linens,  
Gabardine, Poly/Cotton and many  
more...

\$1.00 to

\$3.98 YD.

### UPHOLSTERY FABRIC

Velvets...solids, textures. Terrific  
Savings!

\$1.99 to

\$5.00 YD.

### DISCOUNT FABRIC MERCHANTS

22800 Woodward Ave.  
Corner 9 Mile  
Farmdale • 543-3622

4561 East 9 Mile  
Bet. Ryan & Mound  
Warren • 758-7204

Mon.-Sat.: 9:30-5:30

## BANKRUPTCY STOCK SALE

by B & G PROMOTIONS

40% to 70% OFF

EVERYTHING IN STORE  
ALL STOCK MUST BE SOLD!

DESIGNER JEANS • SWIMWEAR  
SLACKS • SKIRTS • SWEATERS  
BLOUSES • BELTS • NEW SPRING STOCK

Including ALL Name Brands such as:  
JORDACHE, SASSOON, SPENCER, etc.

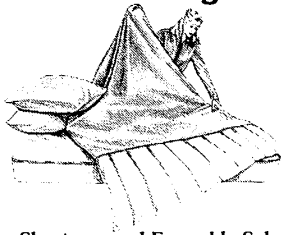
Her  
Hang Ups

Broadway Plaza

14 Mile & Middlebelt

Hours: Mon-Thurs 10-6  
Friday 10-9, Saturday 10-5, Sunday 12-5

## Slip Between Our Sheets at a Savings!



### Sheetcase and Ensemble Sale

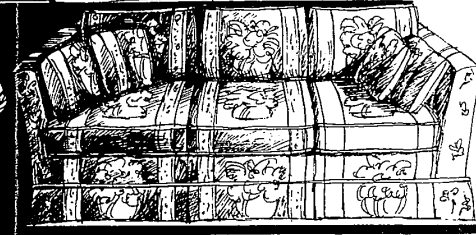
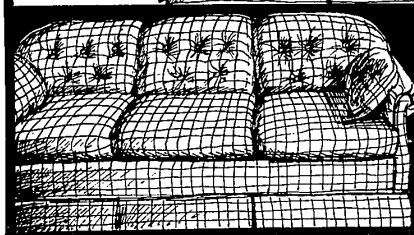
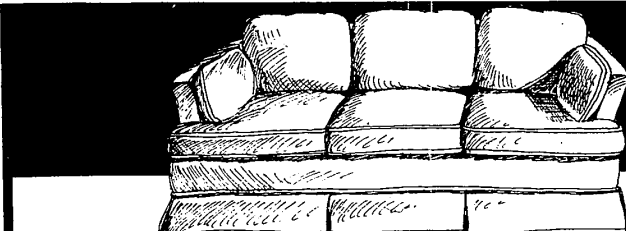
Now that you've  
experienced the joy of  
sleeping under your  
Scandia Down  
comforter, here's your  
chance to zip into Spring  
with one of our fresh,  
fashionable, Scandia  
Down Sheet Case

Ensembles at a big  
savings, from 30 to 60%  
off. Washable, permanent  
press, many patterns to  
choose from. They're  
gorgeous! C'mon down  
today for best selection.  
Your night life deserves it.  
Beginning April 15th until  
supply lasts.

Scandia  
Down Shops®

855-5720

Conveniently located at  
Hunters Square Mall  
31055 Orchard Lake Road  
Farmington Hills



FOR 7 DAYS: WE'RE OFFERING  
3 OF OUR BEST SOFAS FOR AN  
UNBELIEVABLE \$595 EACH.

A remarkable price, on truly remarkable furniture. Because these  
sofas are not floor samples. Every unit is built to your  
specifications.

It starts with the building of a hardwood frame for  
the design you select. It continues with the hand  
tying of each spring. And ends with the custom  
tailoring of each sofa in the fabric color and  
style you select.

VISA/MASTER CHARGE/AMERICAN EXPRESS

## Plymouth Furniture

360 S. Main St./Plymouth, Michigan  
455-5700/ Open: Thur., Fri. 9am to 9pm.  
Mon., Tue., Wed., Sat., 9am to 6pm.