



BILL BRESLER/staff photographer

Oliver Lindsay, owner of University Limousine Service in Plymouth, has a white Rolls-Royce available for chauffeuring his clients.

Stars may order security service

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floor of a hotel where, "Anybody who doesn't belong, doesn't get there." The limo service's chauffeurs are trained in evasive driving techniques, and bodyguards are trained in crowd control.

Scariest assignment for Somerset was in 1982, during a visit of Rudolph Nureyev, Russian ballet dancer and defector, Dan Glumb said. The FBI and his management company advised the limo service that he was receiving death threats.

THE DANCER HAD to be taken off the plane via a ramp because it was too dangerous to take him through the airport. Armed guards surrounded him throughout his entire stay in the area, Glumb said. "He was very calm and held up well under the pressure."

Richard Hotz, a 28-year-old West Bloomfield entrepreneur, has been in business six months as sole owner of Executive Limousine Services. His vehicles are worth \$35,000 to \$40,000 each and he will provide shrimp cocktails, champagne, flowers, "or anything you want" in his five limousines.

Hotz hires both men and women drivers, and his women chauffeurs "have never" been in trouble, he said. The firm is licensed to provide both security and detective services. Hotz employs "quite a few police officers who may or may not be moonlighting," and a retired CIA and FBI agent.

He is franchising his business in Orlando, Fla. His clients wear diamonds and expensive jewelry and furs and want protection, he said. Some professionals, like Red Wing hockey players, use privacy of his cars for contract talks.

In August, Hotz will drive Burt Reynolds to Canada. In September, Hotz is booked for Paul Anka, and Danny Thomas will be here for the St. Jude Children's Hospital benefit at Fairlane Manor.

RODEO DRIVE Limousine Service has been in business four years. Ronald Ulmer would not reveal the firm's name and said his client list is confidential "because that is the way they want it." But he did mention driving for Rodney Dangerfield, Dan-A-Rafter and

political figure John Dean. Ulmer said Rodeo's clients furnish their own security.

Rodeo Drive is named after an exclusive street in Beverly Hills, Calif. Ulmer said the firm "caters to the stars and upper echelon." Rodeo will provide a Rolls-Royce for \$100 an hour, or a vintage '48 Cadillac "in impeccable condition" for \$75 an hour.

Only nonumbers can rent the firm's presidential Lincoln Continental equipped with 24-carat gold martini stirrers and ice bucket, computerized bar, telephone, video movies, Persian carpets, and bulletproof windows, for \$75 an hour. For a night on the town, a formal standard four-door Cadillac is available for \$35 an hour with a three-hour minimum.

Oliver Lindsay said his University Limousine Service has been in business a little more than a year. Lindsay took his first chauffeur position at 18 in Ann Arbor when he was a student at the University of Michigan, working toward a business administration degree. He now owns two cars — a Cadillac limousine and a white Rolls-Royce "that is a beautiful vehicle and one of only two in the area," he said.

University Limousine will not provide security or alcoholic beverages. "Just the amenities — glasses, chaser, refrigeration, etc.," said Lindsay. University rates range from \$25 to \$65 an hour.

LINDSAY HAS chauffeured for rock bands, chefs and TV personalities. The Grand Prix Renault team hired him for a three-hour job that lasted 12 hours. He is available for weddings, proms, formal functions and to "the night-on-the-town crowd."

Lindsay learned some lessons the hard way, he said, like accepting bad charge-cards. Once, while waiting for clients attending a party, people threatened to smash his car if he didn't give them all the money he had. He drove away and left his clients behind.

At 9 years of age, the Ambassador Limousine Service is an old-timer in the business. Ambassador is a franchised operation with Carey International Limousine Service in 200 cities and 55 countries. It will buy security, if needed.

Why not women as limo drivers?

Whether to use women chauffeurs in the limousine service business is a contentious question.

Dan Glumb of Somerset Limousine Service uses no female chauffeurs. "Women don't fit the image of chauffeur, which is traditionally male."

"We are not trying to sell 'sexy.' We are selling tradition and conservative luxury, not flesh and stand-out," he said.

Ronald Ulmer of Rodeo Drive Limousine Service said women chauffeurs are not taken as seriously as male driver who is dressed in a tuxedo, always discreet, well-mannered, professionally trained, and who doesn't drink or smoke.

Eve Marie Bartman of VIP Limousine Service has as clients TV personalities including Sonny Eliot, Robbie Timmons, Dick Purtan, congressman and Helen Miklison. She will be driving for actress Lela Falana, who is at the Sands in Las Vegas. Bartman is scheduled for September at the Premier Center in Sterling Heights.

"WHENEVER I'm interested in what I am doing," said Bartman, who is a 35-year-old woman, "I put on my 110 pounds. When she makes calls, she finds me 'relaxing' very receptive."

However, post player at Chrysler's Bowl game was not for the 15-minute return to the stadium. When she

clined to dine with her passenger at Mario's, she was served dinner by two waiters, in the limousine.

Ambassador Limousine Service has no women drivers. "It would be demeaning to them," Dana Poprafsky said. "We have seen up front why some clients would want a woman driver. Some people would take advantage of a woman." Some of Ambassador's drivers are retired police officers.

Oliver Lindsay at University Limousine Service said there are two reasons he wouldn't hire a woman chauffeur. One, she would be in danger of sexual harassment, and two, competitive business frowns on it as a man's job.

Richard Hotz of Executive Limousine Service doesn't agree. He said he is a "neutral opportunity employer." Pamela Thorp, 31, is one of several women chauffeurs at Executive. She is a registered nurse who got her first license from the state driving buses that transported children. She has never been propositioned, she said.

She has a concealed weapons permit, is five feet nine inches tall and "can handle myself," she said. She prefers to wear skirt and matching jacket instead of a tuxedo.

"We are hired to drive the car, not to be a bodyguard," she said.

Her most frightening moments are when she is driving alone at 3 or 4 a.m. and people follow her home.

upcoming things to do

● CASTING CALL

Auditions for the Oakland Community College Lincoln-Center Players summer musical production of "The Boyfriend" will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday-Friday, July 5-6, in Room D-206 on the Royal Oak Campus, 739 S. Washington. Roles are available for nine men and nine women 17 and older. Performance dates are Friday-Saturday, Aug. 10-11, 17-18. For more information, call 435-9423 or Bob Larkins at 435-8591 between 2-4 p.m.

● BRASS RING

Two more concerts by Brass Ring

Productions have been added to the pop-music schedule at Meadow Brook Music Festival on the Oakland University campus near Rochester. The Thomson Twins will perform at 8 p.m. Monday, Aug. 20, and the Flinx will appear at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 5. Tickets are \$15.50 pavilion and \$12.50 lawn for the Thomson Twins, \$14.50 pavilion and \$12.50 lawn for the Flinx. For ticket information, call the Meadow Brook Box Office at 377-2010. Tickets also are available at Hudson's and Ticket World outlets.

● MUSIC FESTIVAL

Singer Carmen McRae has been announced as the guest for the Wynton Marsalis concert at 8 p.m. Wednesday, July 11, at the Meadow Brook Music Festival.

● CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE

One-hundred-fifty Vintage and Classic cars will be showcased at the Concours d'Elegance from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 5, at Oakland University's Meadow Brook Hall. Chrysler Chairman Lee Iacocca of

Bloomfield Hills is co-chairman of the event. More than 10,000 spectators are expected to attend, with all proceeds going toward preservation of Meadow Brook Hall, former estate of Matilda Dodge Wilson, widow of auto pioneer John Dodge.

● AT NICKY'S

The Loving Cup — Danny, Marlene, Steve and Bill — returns for a four-week engagement at Nicky's restaurant/lounge in the concourse of the Top of Troy building.

Troupe to do 'Oedipus Rex'

Original sets and staging from the classical theater at Epidaurus, Greece, will arrive for a performance of "Oedipus Rex" at 8 p.m. Tuesday, July 10, at the Masonic Temple Theatre in Detroit.

This is the first stop as part of a North American tour after the classic

drama is presented by the Greek National Theatre, in Los Angeles in celebration of the 1984 Olympic Games.

Tickets at \$17.50 and \$15 are on sale at the Masonic Temple Box Office and all Ticket World outlets. For further information, call 832-2232.

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