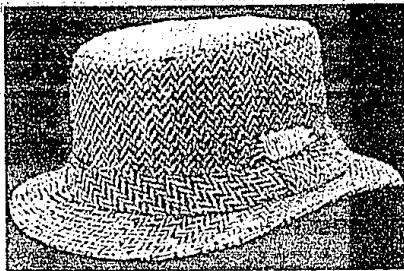


# STREET SEEN

Seen it all. Don't bet on it. But not to worry. Our Street Seen That's what this weekly column is all about — all that neat stuff in for it for you. Keep watching, shops and boutiques throughout You'll see what we mean. You're the area that you've heard about; questions and suggestions are but don't have time to track down. welcome. Call 591-2300, Ext. 313.



BILL BRESLER/staff photographer

## Hats off to St. Paddy

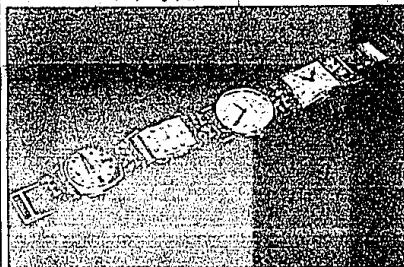
This Donegal tweed Irish walking hat will be a favorite long after the Green Parade passes by. You can wear it in the rain (as in the misty Emerald Isles), shove it in your pocket, stomp on it, fold it, crease it or reshape to fit own image. In other words, it's practically indestructible. With a \$36 price tag, you can find it at the Blarney Stone and also at neighboring A Wee Bit of Scotland in Forest Place Mall in Plymouth.



BILL BRESLER/staff photographer

## No place like gnome

Artisculptor Tom Clark has carved a niche all his own with his marvelous limited-editions collection of charming gnomes. This two-piece called "Willie and Son," Clark will be at Georgia's Gallery, N. Mill Street in Plymouth on Friday, March 27, to autograph his work. Drop in — getting to gnome him is to love his artwork.



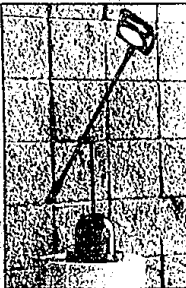
STEPHEN CANTRELL/staff photographer

## Talk tock

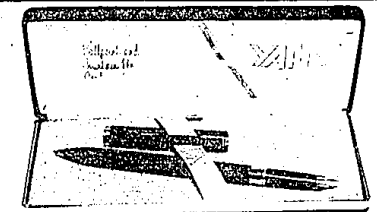
For the person with nothing but time on her hands. This antique gold handcrafted bracelet has three nonworking antique watches and one new one, a Quartz by Timetoch. At Quintessence at LeMirage, Southfield. \$160.

## Light on target

This halogen contemporary lamp is more than sleek and crisp in design. It does a masterful job of lighting. The Elatrix halogen bulb will last for 2,000 hours and will retain 100 percent of initial output throughout the life of the bulb. And there's more proof of its efficiency — this 60-watt bulb delivers the equivalent of 150-watt output, but consumes only 1/3 of the energy. \$99 at Master Lighting, Canton.



BILL BRESLER/staff photographer



STEPHEN CANTRELL/staff photographer

## Two sides to every story

The ultimate in writing pens is this combination ballpoint and fountain pen by Vais. For the person who prefers the old-fashioned sleek of a fountain pen, but needs a ballpoint to sign off those multiple carbonated documents. At Lee Specialty, Birmingham. \$45.

## Rockin' St. Paddy

Benny and the Jets Band and the Corvettes Band will perform at a St. Patrick's Day Party at 8 p.m. Tuesday at JR's Bar and Grill in Farmington. The party will feature WIND-AM disc jockey Fred (Boogie) Brian. There is no cover charge. (JR's Bar and Grill, 30859 W. 19 Mile, Farmington Hills; 474-5975.)

## Cool trumpet

Famed jazz trumpeter Maynard Ferguson and his band will be hitting the high notes in Livonia next week. Ferguson is scheduled to appear at Jamie's on 7 for two shows, at 8:30 and 10:30 p.m. Monday, March 23. The cover charge is \$15 for each show. Showcasing name acts is nothing new for Jamie's, which in the past has featured such acts as the Count Basie Orchestra, the Glenn Miller Orchestra, Chubby Checker, Herman's Hermits, the Platters and Frank Sinatra Jr. (Jamie's on 7, 29703 Seven Mile, at Middlebelt, Livonia; 474-5077.)

## New age

Jim Bajor of Auburn Hills has become a master of what's been called New Age music — soft, instrumental music designed to have a very personal effect on its listeners. The solo pianist's album, "Awakening," released a year ago, is regularly featured on Johnny Williams' show on WNIC. But Bajor also can be heard live. 6-10 p.m. Mondays through Wednesdays at Appetizer in Birmingham and 8 p.m. to midnight Thursdays through Saturdays at the Clarkson Cafe (Appetizer, 280 N. Woodward, Birmingham; 644-7091; Clarkson Cafe, 19 S. Main, Clarkston; 625-5660.)

## Return of 'Evita'

"Don't cry for me, Argentina, I'm laughing all the way to the bank" could be the theme song of Andrew Lloyd Webber. Webber's highly successful "Cats" continues through Sunday, April 19, at the Fisher Theatre in Detroit. Now his earlier hit, "Evita" is being performed at the Birmingham Theatre. The musical about former Argentine first lady Eva Peron will be at the theater through Sunday, April 12. Broadway actress Florence Lacey is in the title role. Tickets are \$14 and \$24 (Birmingham Theatre, 211 S. Woodward, Birmingham; 644-3533.)

## Space odyssey

"Space After Challenger: Where Do We Go from Here?" will be the topic of a special presentation at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Birmingham Seaholm High School. Jim London, staff astronomer for the University of Michigan Exhibit Museum, will speak and show slides. (Seaholm High School, Birmingham; 852-8292 or 641-8074.)

## Blues jamming

Shake away those Monday blues with some Monday blues at Gangsters in Redford Township. The lounge has started a Blue Monday Jam Session at 8 p.m. every Monday.

## Battered women

Nancy Beckett's play "The Women Here Are No Different" is about six women of varied backgrounds at a shelter for abuse victims. The Actor's Alliance Theater of Farmington Hills will be presenting the play through Sunday, with proceeds going to the Women's Center at the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College. Jan Radcliff of Birmingham and Laurie V. Logan of Bloomfield Hills are among the cast. The shows will be at 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and at 2 and 6 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$9.50 and \$11.50. The Wallace F. Smith Performing Arts Theatre, OCC Orchard Ridge Campus, 27055 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills; 642-1326.

## B.B. shots

Two masters of the blues, B.B. King and Bobby "Blue" Bland, will be in concert together at 8 p.m. Friday at the Masonic Temple. Tickets are \$18.50, and all seats are reserved. Masonic Temple, 500 Temple, Detroit; 423-6666.)

## Dance master

Ballet superstar Rudolph Nureyev will appear with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra at 8 p.m. Sunday at Ford Auditorium. Tickets are \$12-50, with the latter ticket including admittance to an interglow with Nureyev. (Ford Auditorium, 1 Auditorium Drive, downtown Detroit; 567-9000.)

## 'Madame Butterfly'

"Madame Butterfly," Giacomo Puccini's classic opera of the tragic love between an American naval officer and a Japanese geisha, will be performed by the New York City Opera Company. The company is under the general direction of Beverly Sills. The performance is scheduled for 8 p.m. Sunday at the Music Hall Center. Tickets are \$28 and \$35. Music Hall Center, downtown; 963-7680.

## Acrobatty

The Flying Karamazov Brothers will bring their zany blend of acrobatics, juggling, music, comedy and magic to Detroit. They will appear at 8 p.m. Tuesday at the Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$12-50 and \$16.50. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor; 669-8397.

Got something interesting in the works? Drop us a line. Send your information to Richard Lech, Street Wise, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

# DJ is man of many voices

Continued from Page 1

"I used to get in trouble in school for impersonating teachers and students," said Courtney, 26, who grew up in Livonia. "I was always interested in doing voices. I chose radio as a career where I can use it."

VETERAN STRAIGHT man Harper characterized Courtney as "diamond in the rough" when he hired him five years ago at WNIC in Dearborn.

"He was naturally funny," Harper said. "You can teach a monkey to run the controls. We went by our intuition in hiring Steve. It turned out to be more than we could even hope for."

The admiration is mutual. To Courtney, he began his radio career in Defiance, Ohio, and moved to another station in Traverse City, Harper was a personality to be emulated. He was the big time.

"At the time I was just a DJ," said Courtney, a graduate of the Specs Howard School of the Broadcast Arts in Southfield. "I never dreamed it would evolve into what it is now. Detroit — this is where my friends and family are. Jim was my boss, but he hired me. It was a rush."

"I'd like to be his apparent to

what Jim Harper stands for. It's a dream come true to be trained by the foremost radio personality in the entire city."

COURTNEY EVOLVED from an on-air jock to helping out with Harper's comedy.

"The chemistry is there between Jim and I. We're looking for a lot of success."

Harper left WNIC 18 months ago to launch new station WDTX, of which he is co-owner and program director. He brought Courtney and producer Mike Bradley with him.

Their studio, on the third floor of an office building on the Detroit/Oak Park border, has a wall of windows overlooking traffic on Eight Mile. Carousels are crammed with hundreds of tapes — more than 600 rock and easy-listening songs, advertisements and prerecorded sound effects.

James Dean peers down from a calendar, and the Concheads of Saturday Night Live fame smile from a wall of pictures and posters that include Madonna, Dan Ackroyd, and Kirk Gibson leaping for joy in a car. "It's very demanding, but fun," Courtney said. "I still don't know what I want to be when I grow up. I

get paid to laugh, to listen to music, to have fun."

THERE'S A LOT more to the job than spinning tunes. Courtney is up from his chair almost constantly during the show — taking or replacing tapes from carousels and sketchily rehearsing vignettes with Harper in the brief breaks between air time.

Dressed this day in brown slacks and a beige and blue ski sweater, Courtney sat in a swivel chair across a large desk from Harper, who is at the controls. Eye contact is important, he said.

"Most of the bits are planned premises, not scripted," said Courtney, chain smoking Players menthol cigarettes. "We have to make it entertaining to listeners, to keep their attention."

Their target audience is "anyone with a radio who is up between 6 and 10 a.m. We'd love them to listen."

Barney is jabbering away now about eating hot dogs with sauerkraut and horseradish. But when he goes off the air, Courtney isn't even drinking coffee.

"I drink coffee for the first two hours," he said. "Then it's water for the rest of the show."

COURTNEY'S DAY begins at 4:30

a.m., when his biological alarm clock sounds in his rented Dearborn home. He drives his '85 Fiero to the studio, arriving around 5:45 a.m. The Harper and Courtney show is taped from 5 to 6 a.m. Then it's live for the next four hours, followed by production meetings. Courtney leaves for home at about 1 p.m.

"The best part of the job is the camaraderie with Jim," he said. "We're partners and very good friends."

To relieve the stress of constantly trying to be witty, Courtney works out, visits with friends, and has a beer "or 12."

"I've talked to lots of comics. They all agree. The worst possible thing is mind block — a time when you can't think of anything funny. It's probably the worst feeling in the world. Fortunately, it doesn't happen often."

Courtney, a graduate of Dearborn Divine Child High School, which he attended on a football scholarship (he played center and defensive tackle), still associates regularly with high school friends.

"I don't like what I do blown out of proportion. I don't like extra attention," he said. "It's a job to me — the only one I know how to do."

# Ah, sure'n 'tis the Maid of Erin

By M.B. Dillon  
staff writer

Farmington's Katy Lawton, an accomplished harpist and vocalist, was selected as this year's Maid of Erin at a competition that drew 350 to the Gaelic League in Detroit.

It's Lawton's role to represent the Irish community at events throughout the year — the premiere event being the St. Patrick's Day Parade that yesterday wound through Corktown and downtown Detroit.

Lawton, a Michigan State University senior, said she participates in Irish activities because they bring young and old together.

"I think it's important for young people to get involved and keep traditions going. It gives them a place to go, and the ability to identify with people of all ages," said Lawton, an English major.

"Events like this give people the chance to enjoy a family, community atmosphere. There's such a lack of that these days with all the decentralization that seems to isolate people of different ages from one another. It's just segregation in a different way," she said.

Both Lawton's parents are Irish-born, and while Lawton is proud of her heritage, "I don't want to be nationalistic," she said. "I don't think the Irish are inherently better than anyone else. But there are things I enjoy about being Irish."

"Being a musician, I've realized that the Irish culture is so rich in music," said Lawton, who plans to sing professionally. "And our literary heritage — I'm proud to be asso-

ciated with that. The Irish have contributed so much to American society."

"After going to Ireland and meeting the people there, this is a generalization, but the people there are very friendly, warm and generous. It really strikes you coming from a place like America where people are more reserved."

Livonia's Michelle Maye, 19, and Eileen Fallon, 17, both Irish step-

dancers, were elected to the Maid of Erin court.

REDFORD'S ROSELEEN EARLY, Maid of Erin chairwoman, said the Irish are representative of what is stored, annual tradition is all about.

"My whole purpose in doing the pageant is to get young people involved in Irish culture and community and to expose them to all of the events we have open to them," said Early, whose father, John Ear-

## Contest raises a bit o'the green for parade

Continued from Page 1

Ve might have filled out a ballot, paying a dollar to nominate yer No. 1 barman in the Favourite Irish Barder competition that's been run by Bob Finn.

"We hope to raise \$10,000 to \$15,000, and it all goes to the St. Patrick's Day Parade," said Finn, 32.

"Detroit's Thanksgiving Day Parade has a \$250,000 budget. We put on the St. Patrick's Day parade for one-tenth of that."

TOM AND KATHLEEN O'Halloran — who left County Offaly, Ireland in 1936 to come to "the best country in the world" — own the Tipperary Pub on Southfield near Joy.

It's a popular gathering place for Germans, Polish, police from Detroit and Redford Township, and of course, the Irish — especially on St. Patrick's Day.

with young house musicians Peter Quinn and Terry Murphy. O'Halloran says service is the name of the game, and that's certainly working in a family-owned general store in the village of Kinnitty back home.

"The moral of the story, if you're a bartender, is to run up and down the bar, and look at 'em right in the eye, and you know what they want," said O'Halloran.

"You go down there and serve 'em. What any bartender should do when they serve a drink is say thank you. There's certain times when you have to be a good listener," added the 28-year Redford Township resident.

The hours and effort a bar owner receives are worth it because of "all the fine people you meet," added O'Halloran, who says he can give to folks who've never been to Ireland "some idea of what the Irish are like" at his pub. Lining Irish walls are family crests, photographs "a little

ly, was chosen as parade grand marshal this year.

"We have 27 different Irish clubs . . . in Detroit that offer everything from Gaelic classes to Celtic dances," added Early, who along with a host of other young newcomers also helped organize this year's parade.

Early hopes more follow suit.

"Getting involved is hard for young people because it really is time-consuming."

More people would mean less work for everyone, she said.

bit of history and a lot of Irish paraphernalia," said O'Halloran.

The attraction to the Tip is more than decor, however. "I guess people enjoy the clientele we have, and maybe it's just because they can relax. There's no pool table and a lot of stuff like this," said O'Halloran.

AS FOR THE best bartender, yer man Finn said that if you want to go to the Tipperary, Dunleavy's Pub & Grub, O'Sheehan's Tavern, An Irish Eatery, Four Green Fields, the Dublin Inn, the Village Inn, the Old Shillelagh, or anywhere else to vote, that ye better hurry up. The vote's over tomorrow.

"The winner will be determined based on the number of votes received, divided by the legal seating capacity of the bar, so all bars have a shot," said Finn, sales manager for Northwest Propane in Farmington Hills.

"The grand prize is one week in Ireland for two, all expenses paid."