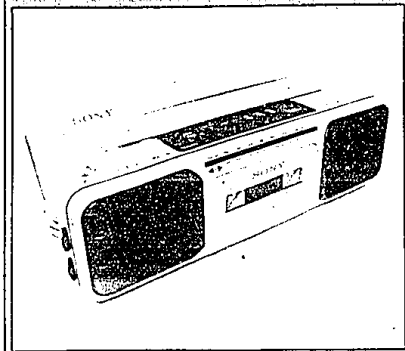


STREET SEEN

We've done it again — rounded up a collection of neat items for your personal. We're also open to suggestions. Call Street Scene reporter Christine Mitchell with those at 691-2500, Ext. 333.



STEPHEN CANTRELL/staff photographer

Mellow yellow

This bright yellow plastic Jam Box is designed with the beach or pool in mind. It is splash resistant and can survive the yukky mixture of sand and suntan oil without ruining your sounds. It's \$150 at all Jacobson's stores.

The flavor of Famie

Keith Famie, chef of Chez Raphaela in Novi, appeals out his reverence for classic culinary techniques with a flair for the elegant and the dramatic in this much-more-than-a-cookbook. Available in all Kitchen Glamour stores, \$13.95.



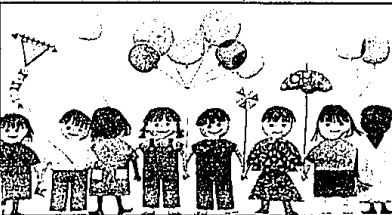
RANDY DORST/staff photographer



Move over, Harpo

Harpo Marx — with his french coat full of tricks — would have appreciated this playful acrylic and cotton wrap with a comic strip lining. Available in black or white with black and white newspaper lining by Furris, \$82. Baker, Fifth Avenue, Somerset Mall, Troy.

CARVILLE MCCOY/staff photographer



BILL BRIDGLER/staff photographer

'Kids' hanging around

Brighten up children's rooms, schools or the office with this silk screen quilted print appropriately titled "Kids." At Fabric Addicts, Wadsworth Square, Plymouth at \$74.95.

Glow In the rock

A new rock band is looking for a manager. The band is called 'Glow In the Rock' and they are looking for a manager who is interested in rock music. They are currently looking for a manager who is interested in rock music.



The runaround

Gosh, your Street Wise writer would love to run in the upcoming West Bloomfield Half-Marathon, but it's just a little bit too long for him. If only it were 13 miles, instead of 13.1. Oh well. For those of you who aren't looking for an excuse not to run, the half-marathon will begin at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, April 12, at West Bloomfield High School. The run takes half-marathoners through scenic areas in Oakland County. The entry fee is \$10 if received before this Thursday. West Bloomfield High School, 4925 Orchard Lake Road, 334-5660.

Boxed set

What floats like a butterfly and stings like a bee? We don't know, but your erstwhile Street Wise writer had to call the Orkin man to get rid of it. Which somehow reminds us that Sugar Ray Leonard and Marvelous Marvin Hagler will be duking it out in Las Vegas on Monday of next week. The fistfights will be on big-screen TV at five spots in the Detroit area, including the Mai Kai Theatre in Livonia. Tickets are \$20-\$50. Mai Kai Theatre, Plymouth and Farmington roads, Livonia; 423-6666.

Trivia pursuit

Does this ever happen to you: None of the "Jeopardy!" contestants knows the question — and you do? Does your Trivial Pursuit "pie" marker fill up while the rest of players hunger for that first slice? Then you might be a good candidate for "Triple Access," a new United Cable Television show that will pit teams of three against each other in a game of trivia knowledge. The show will be taped at the cable company's Rochester studio this spring. For more information, call 656-1987.

Classical gas

Classical music lovers can take their pick of several upcoming local concerts. The Birmingham-Bloomfield Orchestra will perform Dvořák's "New World Symphony" and other works at 7:30 p.m. Sunday at the West Bloomfield High School Auditorium, 4925 Orchard Lake Road. Call 643-7238 for more information. Flutist Julius Baker of the Detroit Chamber Winds will play works from Mozart and others at 8 p.m. Friday at the Smith Theatre, Orchard Ridge Campus, 27055 Orchard Lake, Farmington Hills. Call 332-9329 for more information. The Detroit Contemporary Chamber Ensemble will perform a "Young Person's Guide to New Music" at 3 p.m. Sunday at the Guild Hall of Christ Church, 470 Church Road, Bloomfield Hills. Call 994-0542 for more information.

Bogie man

Humphrey Bogart's been dead for 30 years now, but his "ghost" is appearing on the stage of the Oakland University's Meadow Brook Theatre, in the guise of actor Robert Grossman. Grossman plays the ethereal advisor to a film critic played by Bill Kux in Woody Allen's "Play It Again, Sam." The show will run through Sunday, April 19. Call the box office for times and prices. Meadow Brook Theatre, Oakland University, Walton and Squirrel roads, Auburn Hills; 377-3000.

Sails job

Taking up sailing is easy. Just get yourself a 12-meter boat, a crew of 10 and about \$15 million. Or, forget about the big bucks and the big crew and attend some sailing classes instead. The Huron-Portage Yacht Club of Pinckney will be offering a series of five sailing classes for beginning and intermediary sailors.

Cagey comedy

They used to make the local guys look pretty darn silly, stealing the ball away from them, outbidding them and pumping in the ball from center court. And that was just the Canton girls' basketball team playing the Observer & Eccentric cagers in a charity game. So you can imagine how much fun it will be to watch the Harlem Globetrotters, who do this kind of thing for a living. The famed comedy basketball team will be in town this weekend, at Joe Louis Arena at 1:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and at the Pontiac Silverdome at 7:30 p.m. Saturday. Tickets are \$7-\$10. Joe Louis Arena, 600 Civic Center Drive, downtown Detroit; 567-6000. Pontiac Silverdome, 1200 Featherstone, Pontiac; 567-6000.

Cagey music

Composer John Cage will perform with the Ann Arbor Chamber Orchestra at 8 p.m. Sunday at Orchestra Hall in Detroit. Cage, 75, was a disciple of Carl Schenker. His music has been described as "disembodied beards or sound without association, without precedent timbre or form, without aesthetic antecedent." Orchestra Hall, downtown Detroit; 833-3700.

Los cause

On Saturday night, music fans will have a tough choice: Will it be Los Lobos at the Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor, or what we call "Welkmania II," the Stars of the Lawrence Welk Show, at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts in Mt. Clemens? Knowing our Street Scene audience as well as we do, we figure they'll opt for Los Lobos, the Latino rockers who appeared on Paul Simon's "Graceland" album. They'll be in concert at 8 p.m., with tickets \$14.50. But then again, nobody can make an accordion speak like Myron Floren. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor; 423-6666.

Destination: Derby

The Detroit Young Republican Club will sponsor its 21st annual Kentucky Derby trip the weekend of May 1-3. The \$133 cost of the trip includes round-trip bus transportation to Louisville, two nights' accommodation at the Radisson Inn in Cincinnati and beer, wine and pop throughout the weekend. Paid reservations are required by Friday, April 17. For more information, call 675-3610 or 681-3411.

Lightfooted

"Second City Television" once did a parody commercial that offered Gordon Lightfoot singing every song ever written. We don't think the Canadian folksinger will tackle that big a repertoire at his upcoming concert in Windsor, but he is sure to sing old hits such as "Sunshine." The concert, a benefit for the Windsor Symphony Orchestra, will be at 8 p.m. Friday at the St. Dennis Athletic Centre at the University of Windsor. Tickets are \$12, \$18 and \$25. University of Windsor, exis Ambassador Bridge, turn left at first light; 423-6666.

Artists share their visions



RANDY DORST/staff photographer

Ted Hadfield with his work "Equilibrium for Joseph Newman."



DAN DEAN/staff photographer

Vicki Brett with her oil paintings "Harvest Moon" (left), "Tahquamenon River" (top) and "Spirit Memory."

Ted Lee Hadfield

Equilibrium marks Ted Lee Hadfield's wall hangings. Intermingling the basics of design, color and material with psychologically suggestive images, Hadfield said he attempts to "relate the maintenance of equilibrium to everyday life — past, present and the future."

Hadfield's "The Gyroscope or Spinning Top" (pictured) is currently on display at the Detroit Artists Market. In addition to other exhibitions in Michigan, he has also displayed work in Colorado, Ohio and California.

A graduate of the Cranbrook Academy of Art in 1969, Hadfield owns Art Services in Farmington, a firm that cares for fine arts, antiques and videos.

Vicki Lynn Brett

Vicki Lynn Brett uses logic and intuition to create works of art that she said implies abstract relationships that must be reckoned with on non-verbal terms.

A 1978 graduate of Wayne State University with a master's degree in art, Brett uses "earlier investigations" and "the distillation of those efforts" to create shape and color through a fan or urn and space through lines and creases.

She said she strives in her painting to ultimately transcend content over sense and, in so doing, "achieves a hint of the universal." Brett's works can be seen at the Rubiner Gallery in West Bloomfield where her noted "Imagery" was featured in a four-person show in 1984.

Studio sounds some high notes

Continued from Page 1

"He's really more laid back than you'd think," Forbes said as Seger, "He went at his own pace until an entire song was album quality. It was quite a thrill to have him here."

Other music celebrities to lay down tracks there include Melissa Manchester, Barry Manilow and The Rockets. Also, radio spots for Chevrolet's "Heartbeat of America" advertising campaign and commercial jingles have taken shape in the studio, which features a computerized \$240,000 24-track mixing board.

More often though, it is obscure bands and struggling soloists complete with dusty cassette demos, guitars and dreams — who book recording time.

Somewhat bridging the musical world of difference between starting out and scoring platinum is what Smerek and Forbes attempt to do at Ambience.

"LOCAL BANDS are looking for the best song they can get, so they can go to (WRR-FM personality) Arthur P. (Penhall) and say, 'Play

my song.'"

"Most of the time, the record won't get played. But if it has that 'million dollar sound,' he can get it on at 11 o'clock at night, and it's OK."

With Smerek at the controls of the mixing board the beat of bass drums, harmony of voices and zap of electric guitars mesh into two-inch reel-to-reel tape — ready for radio programmers and record moguls.

For the most part, the rhythm track is recorded first — a mixture of bass drums, rhythm guitars, piano and rough vocals — with embellishments added later, Forbes explained.

But getting that much-sought-after quality sound costs about \$144 per hour. So Smerek and Forbes recommend that artists have their acts together before they walk through the studio doors.

"It helps for them to know what they're doing ahead of time and do some pre-production (rehearsal) at home," said Forbes, who said he has written about 30 songs.

"Because it costs a lot of money, (artists) don't want to sit up there a lot of hours wondering 'what key to do this in, or in what arrangement.'"

SMEREC AGREED with Forbes.

"Those with a lot of pre-rehearsal come in and whip something out. Others come in less prepared and say, 'Should I change this guitar line a little bit?'"

"All the time the clock is ticking," Forbes said many artists spend hours at home with a drum machine and tape recorder, polishing their acts. He said doing so is a wise move.

For Smerek and Forbes, the days are sometimes long (as many as 20 hours) and the work tedious. But Forbes said the anticipation of how a finished song or album will sound outweighs negative aspects. And the awards on the wall offer added enticements.

"All the time you're working on the sound and the performance of it," Forbes said. "Then there's the blessing of it. All the time you're being critical to make sure all the parts go together. It's really a tedious thing."

"If you take care of things properly along the way — make sure the bass line doesn't leak into the lead vocals for example — mixing at the end isn't a problem."

PRODUCING PERFECT sound

however, won't guarantee success, either for big names like Seger or bands trying to nab a recording contract such as the Vertical Pillows, a female rock group which recorded recently at Ambience.

But it's a necessary first step according to Smerek, who plays in a rock group on the side. Sophistication in the studio starts on the street, he said.

"There's always a battle going on in the studio to get the best possible quality because the public is much more aware," Smerek noted. "Now you can't turn up your radio a little bit and have a party. Now you have giant, sophisticated systems."

"People are definitely more aware of sound. Even young kids are saying, 'Did you hear how good that sound was?'"

Because the public is more demanding, so are record companies. That translates into longer, harder work in recording studios.

At Ambience, Smerek and Forbes work toward meeting that challenge. And they have the platinum to back them up.