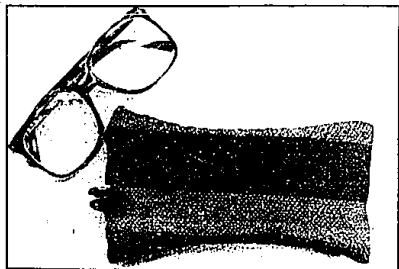


street seen

Charlene Mitchell



Street Scene reporter Charlene Mitchell is always looking for the unusual and the unique. She welcomes comments and suggestions from readers and entrepreneurs. Write her in care of this newspaper, 36231 Schofield, Livonia 48150, or call 591-2300, Ext. 513.



Eyes have it

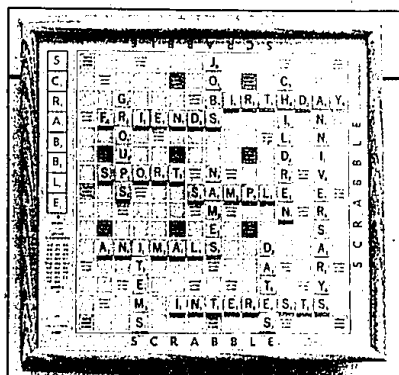
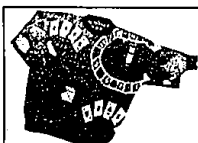
This handmade eyeglass case is roomy enough for the biggest oversized specs to fit into, the extra thick foam-like padding keeps them safe and the silky feel of the exquisite fabric makes a very pretty case for your extra glasses. \$18. Escapades on the Boardwalk, West Bloomfield.

Walkin' 'n talkin'

At last, a fun, functional and fashionable personal stereo carrier that is as light as a feather with controls always at your fingertips. Another nice thing is the accessible pocket placement made possible by an angled belt design. Wear your stereo anywhere on your waist, front, side or back. Its special design also molds to your waist for a snug fit without riding up and insures no bouncing or shifting. \$15. Ask for Walkmate. Available at Running Fit, 212 E. Washington, and Tortoise and Hare, on E. Liberty, both in Ann Arbor. Also by contacting the manufacturer, Functional LTP, at (815) 942-6705.

Place your bets

Wanna go to Vegas the easy way? The casino sweater by Crossings has all the high stakes features, including cards, dice and even a roulette wheel. This multi-colored sweater is made of 100 percent cotton and retails for \$70. Available at Campus Mens Shop, 116 N. Woodward, Birmingham.



Having the last word

You won't have to worry who wins with this version of the popular Scrabble game. All your important words are spelled out for you. Use your family's names, special places, or your favorite expressions to complete your messages. It'll be put together for you complete with a solid oak custom frame. A truly special and personalized gift. \$65 complete. Allie's Gift Gallery, Seven Mile Road, Livonia.

STREET SENSE

Dear Barbara,

Could you please describe behavior signs, or warning symptoms of eating disorders (such as bulimia or anorexia). I suspect my teenage daughter may be using the purge part of bulimia to control her weight. Teenage girls seem to have an obsession for this, this, thin bodies.

Concerned in Birmingham

Dear Concerned in Birmingham, How true. The quest for "thin, thin, thin bodies" has become a teenage obsession. However, while it seems that teenagers with eating disorders are solely troubled by an obsession with thinness, that is generally not the case. It may begin that way, but for both bulimics and anorexics, their preoccupation becomes their only method of dealing with emotions and conflict.

Bulimia is a syndrome in which the person eats (usually large quantities of food) and then purges herself

of the calories by vomiting and/or using laxatives or diuretics. Bulimics may also use excessive exercise and fasting to keep their weight at a normal level.

Anorexia: starve themselves (sometimes to death) in the pursuit of thinness. Because anorexia is a state of starvation, anorexics often binge and purge. However, they won't eat in between and therefore their bodies are not maintained at a normal weight.

Anorexia is generally easier to spot than bulimia. You'll be able to see the inappropriate loss of weight, coupled with the obsession with weight and food. An anorexic often thinks of nothing else. In some cases there is a concurrent avoidance of maturation into womanhood.

The weight loss aids in the goal of keeping the young woman looking like a little girl, arresting her reproductive faculties and retarding breast development.

AN ANOREXIC sometimes takes to wearing baggy clothing and to taking part in strange eating rituals,



Barbara Schiff

such as eating only alone or cutting the food into tiny pieces.

Bulimia is more difficult to detect. Bulimics are usually of normal weight and they carry out behavior in secret, so unless the physical symptoms become serious, they can hide it.

If your daughter is running to the bathroom after every meal, you've reason to worry. Other signs that should cause concern are rising grocery bills and food that disappears from the cupboard. Finding emetics, diuretics or laxatives in your daughter's room are more warning signs.

Bulimics can seem very successful in their daily pursuits, but they suffer excessive guilt especially about their bulimia, which leaves little energy for continuing emotional maturation. Many have difficulty with impulse control and are intensely preoccupied with their appearance. Sometimes there is teeth deterioration and/or swelling of the salivary glands, which creates a "moon" face.

I hope this information helps you with your daughter.

Barbara

If you have a question for Barbara Schiff, an experienced counselor and therapist, send them to Street Sense, 36231 Schofield, Livonia 48150.

Comebacks: They don't come easy

Continued From Page 1

The Ghoul raises a triumphant fist and said, "You got that right. (Believing like Fat Albert) Hey, hey, hey!" When he jumps down from the pole, he rips his jeans.

From there, The Ghoul leads the entourage out into the blustery January air. He's only wearing his thin lab coat, but the recognition from passersby makes him limned from the chill.

A group of teenagers asks for autographs. He soon runs out of pictures and begins using a reporter's notebook.

A woman pulls her two small children up to The Ghoul. "Plunk your magic what?," said the mother, puzzled by this character, but nonetheless doesn't want her kids to be left out.

"Do you know who The Ghoul is?" he asked the kid too young to remember him as the 1970s antihero of late night TV. "Well, hold onto this because someday soon it's going to be worth something."

A LOT OF Ron Sneed is in The Ghoul.

Sneed as a youth started a rumor in his neighborhood in Euclid, Ohio, that the Beatles' Ringo Starr was going to visit. He bought a Beatles wig and hired a chauffeur.

"The whole neighborhood was lined up because they were so gullible," said Sneed in amazement. "They believed Ringo was actually coming."

Another childhood stunt indirectly led him to TV. Sneed wore a stolen gorilla suit to an appearance by Cleveland horror movie host, Ghoulardi.

Eric Anderson, who was Ghoulardi, was so impressed by Sneed's movie he hired the teenager to work as his gofer. Before long, Sneed was Anderson's understudy.

Enough so that Sneed asked the management at WJBE-TV Channel 61, if he could do his own show. In 1971, "The Ghoul" premiered.

In the beginning, Sneed did an exact imitation of Ghoulardi. (He asked Anderson to return, but Anderson, an announcer for ABC-TV, declined.) Then Sneed began putting his own touches on the show.

He would cut into the movies and provide sound effects. For instance, if a couple were kissing, he would slip in a heart-rending belch.

He also held high regard for the films he hosted. "Boy, this movie is really stinkeroo," he would say, spraying air freshener.

THE GHOUL was as kind to the concerned mothers who wrote in complaining about his antics. "Hey madam, why don't you put your false teeth on backwards and bite your throat."

People ate it up. Ratings soared instantly. Soon, The Ghoul was syndicated to other Kaiser Broadcasting affiliates in Boston, San Francisco, Chicago and Philadelphia.

Along with Cleveland, the height of The Ghoul's popularity reached epidemic proportions in Detroit. He recalls being mobbed at an appearance during halftime of a Harlem Globetrotters game at the Cobo Arena.

Then things took a nose dive into, as The Ghoul would say, the porcelain receptacle.

Sneed said The Ghoul was set to move to CKLW-TV Channel 9 (now CDET-TV), but Kaiser Broadcasting said it owned the rights to The Ghoul character. A bitter lawsuit ensued that took 1½ years to settle.

After returning to Channel 50 for awhile, The Ghoul started channel hopping. He went to Channel 20. He went to Channel 62 and then back on Channel 20.

Ratings, compared to the cost of producing the show, are some reasons The Ghoul was eventually dropped from the WXON-TV lineup, according to vice-president and general manager Doug Johnson.

"The Ghoul was a following for a certain group of people," Johnson said. "We had him during a movie. A couple of times when we just had

the movie, there was no significant slippage in the ratings. So that told me most people just wanted to watch the movie."

MANAGEMENT didn't understand The Ghoul, Sneed said. But he admits he had a role in it.

"I became really arrogant for awhile," Sneed said. "I burned a lot of bridges. I'd say, 'Ah screw you.

I'm The Ghoul. I'll be on forever.' Well, you find out. No. 1, you're not on forever and just because you made a lot of money then doesn't mean you're going to be making it later."

Sneed still thinks The Ghoul could fly today, if given the chance.

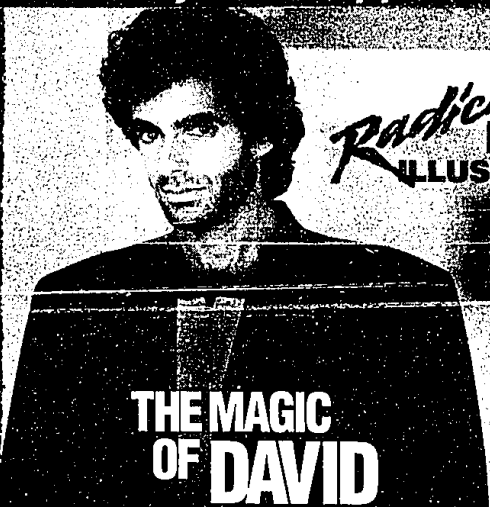
He still has a number of fans in the Detroit area, receiving letters from them. Recently, there was a "Bring Back The Ghoul" exhibit at a

science fiction convention at the Southfield Hilton.

Selling the concept of The Ghoul isn't easy, though. Sneed is paying the price for his rebellion.

"Why do I?" he said. "I've always been rebellious. If some station said, 'We'll put you on as The Ghoul,' but it was a total whitewash where I was a shadow of myself. I could not sell myself out like that."

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