

A not so cold game

The Detroit Tigers may have to travel to Florida where the weather's warm to play baseball in the waning days of winter. But there are some diehard softball enthusiasts who have found a place to get in a game or two even if it's well below freezing outside. See Page 6D.

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Body Pampering



Massage therapist Micholina Brehm of Bloomie's Face and Body gives Bruce Goldman of Farmington Hills a massage.

photos by RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Tune-up for spring

By Charlene Mitchell
special writer

The cold weather typical of Michigan winters has a habit of making us feel a little down and out. The wind dries out our skin, the freezing temperatures make our nails brittle, and the hassles of the ice and snow tend to give us the blahs.

Just as our cars require reconditioning and tune-ups, our bodies can benefit from a dose of late winter tuning-up as well. Body massages, facials, manicures and pedicures are all part of the cosmetics of looking good and feeling better during the off-season, when bright days are few and far between.

In fact, more and more women — and, yes, men, too — are spilling themselves with extra special beauty treatments that help them get through the it all.

At Bloomie's Face and Body in Farmington Hills, owner Sharon Reed is convinced that the comfort and luxury of an hour-long massage or facial can do wonders in making a person go from down and out to totally rejuvenated.

"When clients come in here with boots covered with snow and their cheeks red from the blustery cold, we give them just what they need to make them forget about the bad weather," Reed said. "When they lie down on our heated massage tables and feel the hot oils on their skin, it's like heaven."

"Right down to the heated mittens and booties that help melt moisture cream into the feet and hands, it's a real treat."

IN NORTHERN Oakland County where facial and nail salons are in abundance, it's estimated that the number of men and women paying up to \$100 for a morning or afternoon of pampering on a monthly basis has more than tripled in the past two years.

Tamara Friedman, owner of Tamara Institute de Beaute in Farmington Hills, feels people are realizing that health and beauty are tied together.

"People tend to feel better when they look good," said Tamara, whose full-service salon on Northwestern Highway attracts clients ranging from housekeepers to surgeons. "We find a lot of our customers give their husbands or male friends gift certificates at Christmastime and they begin to use them at this time of the year."

"It's an escape to a calm, cozy atmosphere where they can be comforted in private."

One look at Friedman's flawless skin and perfectly kept nails lets you know she practices what she preaches.

Within a three-mile radius, another salon that's seeing a boost in the number of people pampering away their winter blahs is Daniel J Salon. Owner Daniel Soller recently hired two additional technicians to handle the increased volume of clients, booking manicures and pedicures.

"It's phenomenal," he said. "We're seeing lots of new clients, people who never before splurged on little self-indulgent things like pedicures or facials."

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Manicurist Anna Dobrusin of the Daniel J Salon gives Melaine Davidson a pedicure. Davidson is president of Melaine Modeling in Southfield.



Jim Wilson, a stylist at the Daniel J Salon in Farmington Hills, prepares Irene Lundgren for a scalp massage.

Warp Factor

Karlos Barney



Dear Boss, wish you were here

By Iris Sanderson Jones
contributing travel editor

Dear Boss:

You are always telling me to look for a local angle when I travel to faraway places for travel stories. The Michigan Connection, I think you call it.

You'll be glad to know that I was thinking about you and the Michigan Connection when I checked into the glamorous new Daytona Beach Marriott Hotel in Florida. I was there for the grand opening of that beautiful pile of pink stucco and green roofs. (It's a tough job, but somebody has to do it.)

As I followed the bell captain past the lobby, the lounge bar to the elevator and up to my room overlooking the ocean, I said, "Do you know if anybody from Michigan works in this hotel?" "I'm from Michigan," John Mays said. "I grew up in Southgate and I helped open the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Dearborn." It was a good omen. John was

storeroom manager at the Hyatt, and later followed the bell captain to Dallas for seven years before becoming a bell captain himself at a hotel in Winston-Salem, N.C.

JOHN MOVED to the Ritz-Carlton in Atlanta, when his parents moved from Michigan to a home just up the beach from where they were building the Daytona Beach

Marriott and John came to visit.

"I came to spring break in Daytona Beach when I was in high school," John said, "and when I saw this big hotel going up right over the heart of the beach last year, I applied for a job. Now I'm living at home again!"

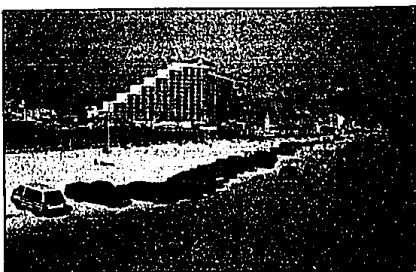
How's that for a Michigan Connection?

I was thinking about that the next day when John accepted the ceremonial "key" from the mayor during the hotel's official opening ceremonies.

There were a lot of speeches. The room was full of balloons. The traditional ribbon-cutting ceremonies were a little more dramatic than usual — a Nissan GTP turbojet racing car roared on to the stage — and broke the ribbon while it was at it — bringing a stunned audience to its collective feet.

I was standing up to my knees in balloons, talking to hotel general manager Michael Murray after the ceremony, when I happened to mention the Michigan Connection.

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MICKY JONES

There's plenty of sand, surf and sunshine, not to mention hotels, along Daytona Beach.