

STREET SCENE

Inside **S**

Take me out . . .

The crack of the baseball bat and the roar of the crowd are echoing through Tiger Stadium now that opening day has arrived. For a group of "fan-tatics," the sounds mean more than just another year season. Find out why on Page 6D.

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

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SUMMER HEAT



Why not try this two-piece iridescent turquoise bikini with a high waist and gathered top by Gottex (\$68 at Don Thomas Sporthaus, Birmingham).



For men, there's yellow cotton trunks by Patagonia (\$27.50 at Don Thomas Sporthaus in Birmingham), while for women, it's a two-piece black and white checkered bikini with bright yellow waistband (from Begadim in West Bloomfield).

Hot's the way to dress when you're sun-bound

By Charlene Mitchell
special writer

Let's face it. Buying a swimsuit isn't all that much fun. In fact, a recent survey by a national consulting firm found that buying a swimsuit ranked in the top five of the "most disliked" items to shop for.

The respondents were women between 25 and 50 years of age. Although they didn't say why it's disliked, it's easy to conclude, considering all the hype surrounding *Sports Illustrated's* annual swimsuit issue.

Women with average bodies tend to feel self-conscious when they try on suits that seem only to flatter the ultra slim models with picture-perfect measurements.

Not to worry, say the designers of the itty bitty bikinis that have found their way back to the beaches after a couple of years of unpopularity.

Yes, the bikini is back! But — and it's a big but — the designers also know they have to sell to the masses and that includes those women with bodies that may not have yet visited local exercise clubs.

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There are a variety of spectac-

ular swimsuits to choose from this season and for those not ready to bare too much skin, the wonderful coordinated cover-ups are a must. Besides concealing any extra weight, the cover-ups also are an excellent way to shield your skin from dangerous overexposure to the hot sun.

But, back to those itty bitty bikinis. Who wears them? Street Scene did an informal survey of some local notables and found a few who admitted itty bitty was their choice for swim wear.

For Tamara Friedman, owner of Tamara Institute deBeaute in Farmington Hills, it's "never" when it comes to a one-piece suit. She's saving those for "old age."

"I wear bikinis because my husband loves me in bikinis," said "I feel very comfortable in two-piece suits, even if I have a little weight . . . and what I just wore is little string bikini on the beach in Mexico and I got a fabulous tan."

On the flip side is Marilyn Turner of WXYZ-TV's "Kelly and Company."

"My favorite suit is a black and white striped bikini I've had for 14 years, but I don't wear bikinis any more, so it sits in the drawer," she

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Here is a two-piece body glove with zippered top in hot pink lycra. His is hot pink cotton boxers with black piping.

which provided the swimsuits.

Photography was by Jerry Zolynsky with assistance from Stephen Cantrell, staff photographers.

We'd like to thank . . .

Street Scene would like to extend a special thanks to the folks who helped us put together the third annual swimsuit story.

• The Embassy Suites Hotel of Southfield, which graciously extended use of its pool area for the photo-graphic session.

• Hair stylist Adrienne Bircoll of Daniel J. Salons in Farmington Hills, who made sure the models were perfectly coiffed.

• AIN Plastics of Southfield for the props.

• Artist Denis Konkel for the backdrops.

Begadim of West Bloomfield, Don Thomas Sporthaus of Birmingham, Bobette Shop of Pontiac and Reslyn's Intimate Apparel of Southfield,

Warp Factor

Carlos Barney



The first clarinet was originally used to suck liquids from a drinking bowl . . .



... it was many years later that its usefulness as a musical instrument was discovered.

Taking a slow boat through Europe

By Iris Sanderson Jones
contributing travel editor

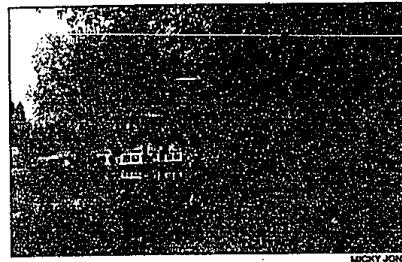
Or I want to go to Europe, but all my husband wants to do is cruise and sail, cruise and sail. A little cruising and sailing goes a long way with me. I want to visit those tiny European villages and drink beer in the ancient pub. Help!

D.T.
West Bloomfield

A: I have traveled by car through the chateau country of France and down those winding switchback roads in northern Italy. I've ridden the train through France, enjoying every mile. I've been on a tour bus in Germany and Spain.

I loved it all, but my favorite way to see Europe is the way that all those ancient travelers used before the invention of the engine — by water.

Ulysses toured the Mediterranean by sailing ship. We can do it aboard a cruise ship, ferry or as part of a flotilla of sailboats. The Romans explored by rivers



One of the advantages of renting a canal boat is the chance to get off and go bicycling along the waterway, such as along the Canal du Midi!

like the Rhine, which now carry thousands of passengers a year aboard Rhine cruisers.

Industrial manufacturers built canals all over England and the Continent to transport goods. Rail-

roads made the canals obsolete for commerce, but modern travelers use them aboard luxury hotel barges or do-it-yourself canal boats.

Water travel is slow. If you want

to see the whole continent in 10 days, water is the wrong highway for you. But think of the advantages. You pack and unpack only once, when you get on and when you get off.

IF YOU ARE an active traveler, but you are traveling with someone who prefers to relax, you can both do your own thing. Even if you can't enjoy a whole vacation by water, include a few days or even a day trip on a ferry.

You can easily spend a week on a Rhine cruise, floating downriver from the Swiss Alps, past hills topped with German castles to the windmills of Holland, and on to the North Sea.

These cruise ships are not as luxuriant as Caribbean or other seagoing cruise ships; your bed is really a fairly firm bunk in a small room. But the food, wine and companionship are wonderful. You can stop and explore cities like Cologne or tiny villages like Koenigswinter and Rudesheim.

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