

Life at sea

Freedom Festival gives cadets sneak preview

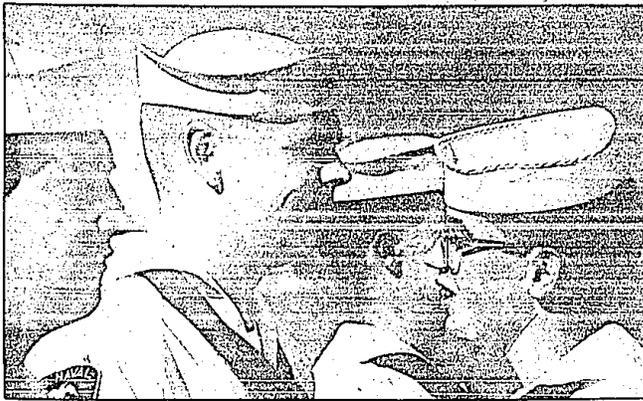
By Philip A. Sherman
staff writer

IT WAS A great day to escort a warship.
The morning's itinerary called for the *Pride of Michigan*, staffed with U.S. Navy Sea Cadets, to go out on the Detroit River, meet, salute and show into port the USS *Boulder*, which would dock at Hart Plaza for Freedom Festival festivities.

Overhead, two Coast Guard helicopters were screaming around, circling both ships. In the *Pride of Michigan's* pilothouse, Sir Francis Drake, the captain's African Gray parrot, was sitting on his perch, awking quietly.

And away from the sunlight, in the *Pride of Michigan's* engine room, Mike Mouradian, 14, of West Bloomfield, was in charge of the throttle. He's been at it for two years — since he was 12.

"We have officers overlook everything that we do," Mouradian said, confident in his ability to power the ship.



photos by JOHN STORAZANSKI/staff photographer

John Rose, a student at Heritage Christian School in Auburn Hills, receives instructions from his sergeant as the cadets stand in formation next to their ship.

gills. "I've been seasick all day, sir, but it's getting better now," he said. "I wouldn't wish this on anyone, though. There's nothing worse than being seasick."

With Commander Clyburn gently giving orders, the cadets moved the *Pride of Michigan* out onto the river, under the Ambassador Bridge and toward the USS *Boulder*, which was waiting just beyond the bridge for its escort.

The *Pride of Michigan* was a toy compared to the *Boulder*. At 522 feet long, 70 feet wide and carrying a crew of 300, the *Boulder* displaces 8,450 tons of water.

Most of the cadets were staring at the *Boulder's* weapons systems, particularly the rear guns, which seemed half the size of the *Pride of Michigan*.

The *Pride of Michigan* changed course, drew up alongside the *Boulder* and maintained a parallel course back to the dock at Hart Plaza. During that run, the *Boulder's* crew assembled on deck and offered a salute, which the cadets returned.

Clyburn seemed proud of his cadets. They responded to his orders promptly, knew how to operate the equipment at their stations and had

metropolitan Detroit.
Detroit-based magician Jeff Hobson will open the show for Allen.
More information on the event is available through Catholic Social Services of Oakland County at 333-0700.



Cadet Jason Gault, 15, of Garden City, stands at attention in the pilothouse as the *Pride of Michigan* gets underway. In the background is Commander Luke Clyburn.

MOURADIAN is a cadet on the *Pride of Michigan*, an 80-foot yard patrol Navy ship transferred to the Oakland County Sea Cadet program May 21. The cadet program, according to Commander Luke Clyburn, was started by the Navy 26 years ago to develop maritime interest in 14-18-year-olds.

"The ship technically belongs to the Navy, but the Great Lakes is the only one that has a ship to train cadets," Clyburn said.

He added the cadet program is not necessarily aimed at recruitment; it's just there to help others decide if a Navy career is for them. Cadets can leave the program at any time.

JASON GAULT, 15, a cadet from Garden City, said he was "deliberat-

County agency sets Steve Allen benefit

World renown comedian/musician Steve Allen will perform at a benefit for the Older Adult Programs run by Catholic Social Services of Oakland County.

Ticket sales for Allen's Friday, July 21, performance are on sale at all area Ticketmaster locations in

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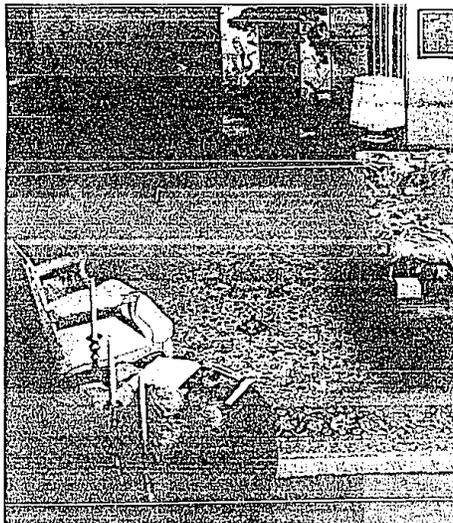


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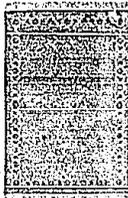
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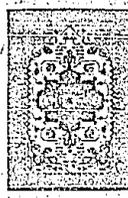
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