



STREET SEEN

Denise Susan Lucas

Our intrepid Street Scene reporter is always looking for the unusual and welcomes comments and suggestions from readers and entrepreneurs. Send those to this column in care of this newspaper, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, or call 591-2300, Ext. 313.

M-m-m-m goodies

A Tisket-A Tasket in Farmington has just the right basket for your holiday needs. Some of the custom baskets include: made-in-Michigan products, including the ever-popular Sanders items, lots of gourmet food items and other goodies. Their services also continue long after the holidays end, with "get well," and "pamper him/her" baskets. For more information, call 661-4789.



Sweet endings

The origin of ye olde plum duff dates back to 1759. Imported from New Zealand, the traditional plum pudding will warm the hearts and tummies of loved ones. Serve with rich brandy cream sauce (recipe included) for a memorable holiday dessert. Available in the Marketplace in all Hudson stores.



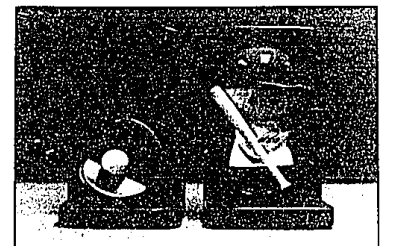
Angelic touches

Candle holders that double as art pieces give a special heavenly touch at holiday time. These Guatemalan earthenware figures are hand-crafted from the pottery-making center of Chinaulta in Latin America. The large angel is \$30 and the smaller one, \$18. Dos Manos, 210 W. Sixth Street, Royal Oak.



Write gift

A gift with style and flair are Happy Holiday and Hannukah note pads designed by a Michigan artist, exquisitely gift-wrapped and available in garlands of color. There are 100 sheets per pad and the packages come with felt-tip pen, candy and decorative magnetic clip. \$11. Call Creations by Carol, 661-0169 or 626-9341.



Down the middle

Your little leaguer will love these mitt and ball bookends for a desk or dresser top. Made in the USA, the wood painted bookends are available in assorted themes of clown, crayons, ballet or tennis shoes. Available at the Paper Place in Southfield at Applegate Square.

STREET SENSE

Try to bridge the generation gap

Dear Barbara,

My daughter is 13. Recently, she came walking downstairs in light blue, a halter top, a lot of make-up and ruffled hair. Her father and I had never seen her dressed like this. We believe she is a serious minded girl.

My husband became enraged when he saw her and started screaming that she looked like a dirty whore. He is a minister with very strong ideas about propriety. My daughter ran crying to her room.

I didn't say anything for fear of causing even greater problems. I hate to see my daughter and her father fight. I feel uncomfortable now and think that possibly I should say something, but I don't know what.

My husband is not going to change any of his ideas about right and wrong, but times have changed and girls are supposed to feel good about their bodies.

Perplexed

Dear Perplexed,

Since I don't know the dynamics behind your daughter's dressing in the way you described, I am unable to answer your question specifically. As I have stated in previous columns, I am more comfortable when I can be specific rather than general. Because I don't know the specifics in this case, I am forced to include your daughter in the group of girls in her age group that I have known.

At age 13 and onward, the approval of the peer group becomes more important to the child than has been recognized by many. What is often stressed is the rebellion against the parent as part of the teen's need to separate and become independent in their own right. This certainly has validity.

However, what I am stressing is that your daughter's dress, as bizarre as it may seem to be to you and your husband, may be the perfect costume necessary for her to be ac-

cepted by her peer group, both girls and boys.

From your description of your daughter's dress, it seems not different from many teens on the street I have seen. Madonna and Cyndi Lauper might defend your daughter's good taste.

It might help your husband if he could understand that adolescence is a difficult age period and that your daughter's dress is being used to elevate her self-esteem and not to confront her father.

The girls I have seen in this age group are hoping when they do this that the father will be understanding of their need to grow up in their own generation and not in their parents' generation.

If you and your husband would understand this, then you could go far in bridging the generation gap.

Barbara

If you have a question or a comment for Barbara Schiff, a



Barbara Schiff

trained therapist and experienced counselor, send it to Street Sense, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

FEAR & LOAFING

'Tis the sneezin' . . .

It was the French revolutionary Robespierre who first said "The only sure cure for the common cold is the guillotine."

Ironically, after 200 years of progress, the average adult still suffers through five colds a year. If you work around people, the number rises to about seven. If you have a child in school, you basically have one continuous cold lasting nine months.

To help you beat the odds, I've scientifically analyzed a typical cold cycle.

There you are, happily strolling through the crowded mall in the best of health. And why not. You exercise, get plenty of rest and with no adult perogatives to cloud your judgment, it's been years since you passed out in a snowbank.

No wonder you feel superior to the unenlightened masses defiling their temples with cigarettes and coffee. Smiling confidently, you stride briskly toward the door.

Unfortunately, before you reach the exit, some vermin blows his nose in his hand, slimes the door handle and steps outside.

Unknown to anyone, this nameless sicko has set a biological booby trap. Silently, invisibly, this infection awaits a random victim. Like some cosmic roulette wheel, your number comes up, and you're the first to touch the contaminated handle.

AS THE COLD breeze hits your face, a tear forms in your eye. Instinctively, you reach up to wipe it away. As you rub the inside corner of your eye, thousands of germ pirates scramble off your finger and scurry down the tear duct into your sinus cavities. Quickly decorating warm, moist passageways with mirror tiles and soft lighting, they set up a microscopic singles' bar and begin to multiply by the millions.

Normally, your own white blood cells would surround and destroy these invaders, but as it happens, they're taking a lunch break behind your knee caps. By the time they crash the party, X-rated morphogenesis is out of control.

Three nights later, you have a dream that trolls are squeezing your head in a giant vice. The sound of your sneezing wakes the neighbors who call the EMS. Hoarse from coughing, you must sign language to ask the fireman for an aspirin.

Over the next week, you will use three boxes of tissues, six nationally advertised cold medicines and two folk remedies. Nothing works.

You become openly hostile to family and friends. Pets flee. Co-workers transfer. Between coughs, you vow this ordeal must never happen again.

To that end, we present five ways to win the cold war:

(1) Move to a germ-free environment. Choose from the Antarctic, the Gobi Desert or the ocean floor. If you insist on a temperate climate, avoid all face-to-face contact with humans. Shop by mail order, communicate by smoke signals and work by yourself hearing yaks.

Unknown to anyone, this nameless sicko has set a biological booby trap. Silently, invisibly, this infection awaits a random victim. Like some cosmic roulette wheel, your number comes up, and you're the first to touch the contaminated handle.

(2) IF YOU MUST be around people, never actually touch them. No hand shakes, no slow dancing, no arm wrestling. If you're in a dating relationship, invent your own substitutes for the traditional means of expressing affection. For example, juggling a cat could be a code for "in my mind I'm kissing you."

(3) If you must be near crowds, wear a ski mask at all times. (To avoid being gunned down at your local bank, switch to the drive-in window.)

(4) Always wear rubber gloves in public. Never touch a faucet, a railing with bare hands. If you're ought without protection, remove your socks and use them as mittens.

(5) For safety at holiday parties, I wear the stylish new Lysol spray hat. This fedora is not only alic to the bone, but every 10 seconds puff of antiseptic is pumped out from four nozzles in the brim!

Obviously, even I can't predict every potential source of exposure. It's estimated this season's "com-



Karl Nilsson

mon" cold may be caused by 100 different viruses. Over the years, some of these strains have mutated to attack only when your immune system is weakened by Milk Duds. Others only flare up when your health insurance is canceled. But the most sinister of all lies dormant in the body for months - until you begin packing suitcases for a vacation.

FM 104/WOMC

Salutes the
Downtown Farmington Merchants

Find Yourself in Downtown Farmington

B & B Jewelry
33305 Grand River Avenue
Farmington, MI 48024
474-4157

Bon Ton Shoppe
23320 Farmington Road
Farmington, MI 48024
474-0420

Dagwoods Deli & Eatery
33179 Grand River Avenue
Farmington, MI 48024
474-3800

Precious Commodities
33185 Grand River Avenue
Farmington, MI 48024
473-2195

Pictures & More
23334 Farmington Road
Farmington, MI 48204
477-7090

Dannan Hardware
23314 Farmington Road
Farmington, MI 48024
399-5330

Lower Chiropractic Clinic
23820 Farmington Road
Farmington, MI 48024
474-484

Page's Food & Spirits
23621 Farmington Road
Farmington, MI 48024
477-0099

These merchants are cooperating to give you the very best values for your dollars this holiday season.