## Weird ideas join the curves at Detroit's auto show

Now that Detroit has placed itself firmly at the beginning of the season's domestle auto shows (much cariler and it would be a New Year's Eve party), it has become the Junching pad for a lot of new cars and weird ideas. This year there are nearly two doors so-called "concept cars" on the show floor, some of them strikingly close to cars that will be in the showcoms the next few years.

Chrysler's Tom Gale has struck again with a sleek package that is being touted as Chrysler's basic di-rection for the future, Likewise, GM rection for the future. Likewise, tim has a few concept cars that demon-strate what a new generation of ul-tra-small power plants could do for the family bus.

couple of marketing officials from Honda forged press credentials and sneaked into a press preview just to get an early look.

get an early look.

WHAT INTERESTED the Honda
people was Chrysler's solution to
congested urban areas. It's a James
Bondish sort of Idea that weds a
three-seat minicar to a separately
powered rear passenger compartment. When traffic gets too thick,
the bulky rear section is dumped and
the commuter surges ahead in his
parkable secotor.

It's the kind of thing they do a lot
at the Tokyo motor show, to demonstrate how imaginative their designers can be. The typical Jaded U.S. designer takes one look at the concept
and flyuers nobody in his right mind
would leave half his car unattended



within commuting distance of any U.S. city if he really expected it to still be there when he returned.

BUT EVEN more intriguing than the concept cars, the show is attempting to demonstrate new ideas as well as new cars. A group from Bulck's Lansing, Mich., assembly plant is actually building cars on the show floor, Displays from Detroit's Center for Creative Studies and even some major automotive suppliers

One of the major quirks is the timing of the show with the Society of Auto Analysts, which is a group of highly paid professional stock analysts that advised against buying Chrysler stock a five bucks a share and predicted that cars would sell like crazy in 1899. These worthies have the task of fielding questions about the dark clouds on the economic horizon in the midst of a council horizon in the midst of a cou-

IN FACT, questions about the slowdown in car sales dominated the 35 press conferences held just before the show opened last week. Best explanation is that long-term payment plans have reached the point where the average consumer will die before be sees the last page in his payment book, and we will have to wait for his kids to go shopping before sales will recover. There are a few changes that add to the tone of internationalization, such as the British Auto Manufacturers Association buffing a group dialy for Juguar, Lolius, Range Rover, Rolis-Royce and Sterling, low-volume makes that nonfelleless add a flavor of exotice. In the International Programme of the same content of th

model opens the doors of all 22 cars.

THE CONSENSUS is that the new betroit show is rapidly becoming the most entertaining show in the country. All this is a big change from the days when you could pretty much call it The Auto Show and most folks around town would know what you rever talking about.

Now that it's the North American International Auto Show, which makes for an acronym that sounds; like a subdivision of the State Department, it's getting a little class. "Exhibit managers now are opting or intelligent, informative promotions over cleavage and long legs," says a press release.

Yeah, sure.

## Free financial training offered in series at Troy public library

Want to be your own financial planner and solve some of your fi-nancial problems? Here is the oppor-

nancial problems. Here truity.
Hosted by the Troy Public Library, three training sessions will be presented by me and CPA W. James Piercey on behalf of the Institute for Financial Education.

Details of these sessions follow.

INVESTMENT SESSION: (Wednesday, Feb. 7, 7-8:30 p.m.)
A sound investment portfolio is the heart of any successful financial plan. Its size, liquidity, diversification and taxability are all significant elements that must be understood and managed to produce the most effective results.

In the first seminar we will focus on these and other areas to help you structure the most effective investment portfolio failored to achieve your personal goals. We will also learn about simple ways of calculating total investment return and the method of measuring the level of risk you can comfortably assume.

EDUCATIONAL FINANCING

SESSION: (Wednesday, Feb. 14, 7-8:30 p.m.)

In the second seminar we will drect our attention to the problems of paying for a college education. Over the years many techniques have been presented as solutions to this ever-increasing problem. The paying for a company payroll and a variety of financing plans are some of the methods used to soften the burden of providing for a college education.

Tuition and housing costs have continued to increase faster than the cost of living. The cost of higher education has become the second-largest financial commitment (first being buying a house), made by a family.

Appropriate planning can cut the overall cost by as much as 50 percent.

For those who must face the reality that tuition is due now, there are other options that should be considered. Most important, you will learn bow much you need to save now.

RETIREMENT SESSION:

RETIREMENT SESSION: (Wednesday, Feb. 21, 7-8:30 p.m.) The third seminar is concerned with the most important considera-

cess.
Only the most rudimentary arithmette (add, subtract, multiply and divide) would be required to complete the workbook.

## Jan. 17 event mixes business people

By Mary DiPaola special writer

"The two most important things

to remember about world economics are that yesterday is over and that we must now adjust to living in a world of interdependent communities." When John Naisbitt made that

When John Nalshitt made that statement soveral years ago, many found it difficult to accept this "megatrent" loward a global economy. But that was yesterday. Today, it doesn't take a genute to realize that businesses on both sides of the ocean benefit greatly by "thinking globally and acting locally." For the organizers of this year's second shinnenkai mixer to be held Wednesday, Jan. 17, at the Livonia Marriott Hotel, the event is another device to help local businesses become more international, while

being cognizant of another cultural system for meeting new people.

system for meeting new people.

Shinnenkai is a major social ovent held throughout Japan during the first three weeks of each new year, said Izumi Suruki, president of the Novi-based bilingual service and consulting center of Suzuki, Myers & Associates. The term translates to "new year gathering" and is typically sponsored by Independent business firms, student groups and clubs. Japanes shinnenkals are focused on celebration and socialization in honor of the country's biggest holiday.

With 250 Japanese companies in

With 250 Japanese companies in metropolitan Detroit, Suzuki want-ed to encourage the Japanese to be-come involved with the community on an individual level. The Japa-nese represent the state's largest forcign business community (fol-

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lowed by Canada with 50 Detroit-based firms). It has become in-creasingly important to forge new relationships that break down the barriers between domestic and foreign firms capable of doing busi ness with each other, Suzuki be lieves.

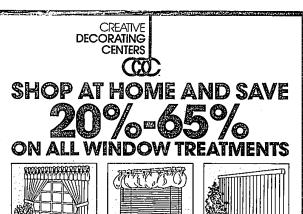
lieves.

Suzuki was encouraged by the response to last year's first shinnenkal mixer. No other cluster of comnumities in the country has taken
advantage of this opportunity to
brush shoulders with Japanese
business people, said Suzuki's husband and business partner, Steve
Myers.

"Last year, the city of Novi hosted the mixer with 100 firms in attendance to include Hitachi, C. Itoh, Nissan, Ikeda and Usul," Myers sald. "This year we expect 200 invited guest businesses to join us."

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