

STREET SCENE

Inside **S²**

A Caribbean 'gem'

There's a new attraction in the Caribbean, an all-in-one resort, Carnival's Crystal Palace Resort along Nassau's Cable Beach. You can wine and dine or dance the night away. Soak up the sun around the pool or on the beach and try your luck in the gaming rooms of the casino. For more on this Caribbean "gem," see Page 6D.

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To buy or not to buy a boat

By Debbie L. Sklar
special writer

Ship ahoy, mates! With the Detroit Boat and Fishing Show going on at Cobo Hall in Detroit this week, it's a good time to consider joining the more than 700,000 registered marine boat owners in Michigan. Hey, if both New York Real Estate aficionado Donald Trump and ex-Miami Vicer Don Johnson can own one, so can you.

But with thousands of boats, yachts and other marine vehicles on the market, where in the world do you begin?

"The first thing you have to do is decide what type of boat you want," said Lindy Rymill, co-owner of Avon Sailboats Limited in Rochester Hills. "Next, you have to find the right dealer because they can usually help you find the right boat."

Rymill said potential customers should also take the same approach in buying a boat as they do a car.

"Buying a sailboat is like buying a car; there are basic types of sailboats just like there are cars, like an 18-wheel truck, motorcycle or Porsche. They all go down the road, but each is different. And it's the same way in sailing."

Rymill suggests customers take a few minutes to decide what type of sailboat they want whether it's for the family or independent use.

"They have to decide whether they want a sailboat that's easy to learn or a sail boat that takes a little bit more work," she said. "The most common way for a person to get into sailing is to buy a small boat to start with."

"BUT THAT'S not the only way. There are sailing programs, schools and clinics to help someone learn the art of sailing."

If the buyer is interested in purchasing a small boat, prices range from \$600 to \$10,000.

"The majority of our first time customers spend around \$4,000 to \$5,000 on their first boat. It's not as expensive of a hobby as one would believe."

In regards to sailboats, there are three different categories to choose from — catamaran (two separate hulls with a trampoline

in the center), board boats and day sailers.

"Catamarans are generally more sporty, tend to go faster, are more exhilarating and are a lot wetter," Rymill said. "A catamaran is a good first sailboat for a small family to invest in, but it is a little harder to rig up." Prices range from \$5,000 to \$8,500.

The board boat is a flat type boat which generally has one single sail and tends to be a little more sporty.

"It only sails — you can't take a family of 12 on it or have a party," Rymill said. "It's a very pure way of sailing." Costs range from \$600 to \$2,000.

The third choice is the day sailer — "By this I mean a day sailboat you use during the day. It doesn't have a cabin in it and generally, it's a drier, speedier, wider and deeper boat that you sit inside or versus on top of."

"A day sailer can be sailed by one, but they usually appeal to either two or more," Rymill said. Prices, depending on the brand, range from \$2,500 to \$5,500.

NOW THAT you've got the boat, who's going to teach you how to sail the darn thing?

"We do give rigging lessons with everything we sell," Rymill said. "One of the key things that's helping sailing is the offering of fleets — the joining of a group of sailors who are at the same sailing level."

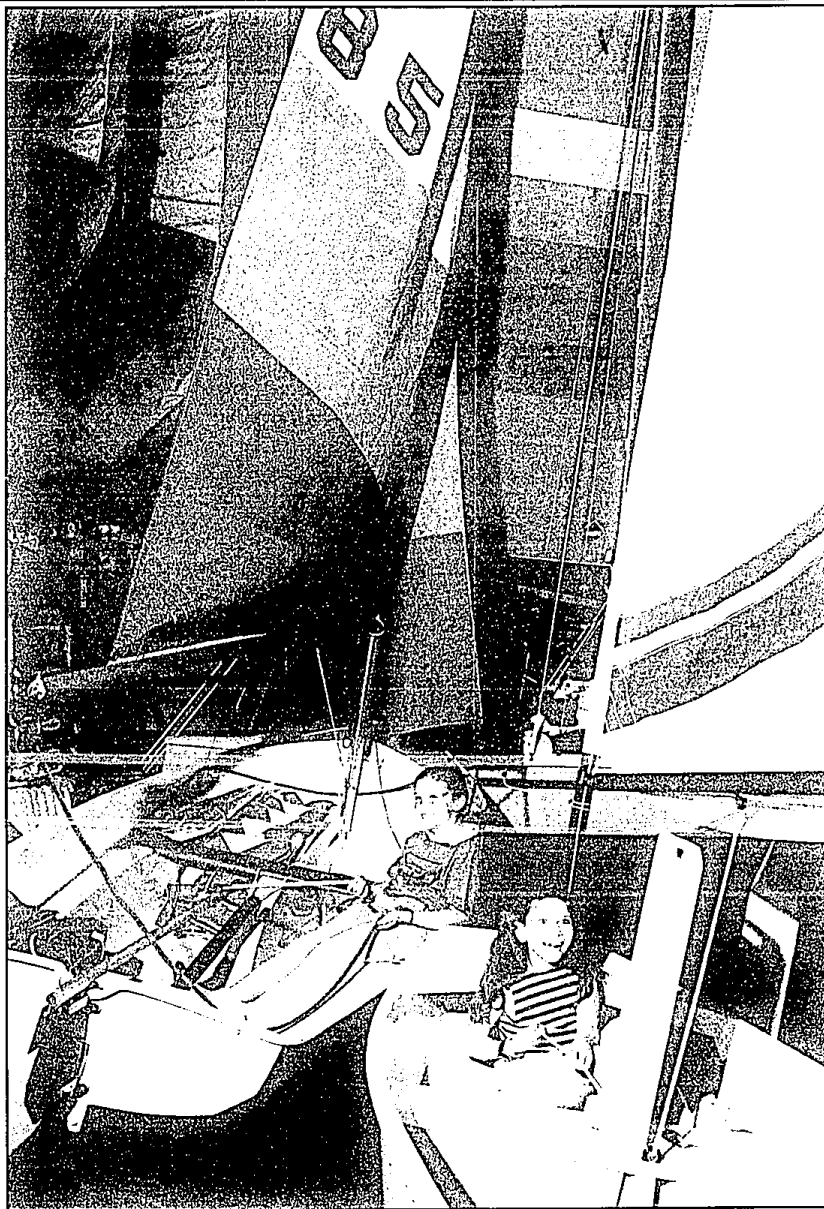
Fleet sailing is an excellent way to learn sailing. You're exposed to a lot of other boats like yours. It's a better way to learn to operate your boat and operate it better, Rymill said.

"Sailing is a very intense sport," she said. "It puts you up against the elements, but there is nothing more rewarding than feeling that wind in your hair as you glide across the cool waters."

But what if sailing isn't your bag and you want something that doesn't seem to take as much work? Maybe a motor boat is more your speed.

According to George Field of Class One Marine in West Bloomfield, there are several different routes that a first time boat owner could embark on.

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BILL HANSEN

Jessi Rymill of Utica and Emily Johnston of Rochester have fun, imagining they're riding the waves in their very own sailboats.

R.U. Syrius

Karlos Barney



"Maybe we should add a disclaimer to our 'prisoner's choice' policy for last meals."

Filling the intellectual banter void

By Chris Rizk
special writer

In a typical day, most adults talk about work, their household and children.

Not very heady stuff says Dr. Harold Mathis, a West Bloomfield psychologist and marriage counselor. When it comes to meaningful, intellectual banter, the void seems impossible to fill, he said.

Mathis thinks he's found however a way past the "yuk, yuk, yak" and "blah, blah, blah" of everyday conversation. A year ago Mathis formed a different kind of self help group.

Called "I Think" it is his idea of rejuvenating an extinct tradition — talking.

"I think we're becoming a spectator society," Mathis said. "Face to face conversations are dying out. We're interacting with computers."

Technology, while providing innovations that are undeniably making life easier, has inadvertently lessened the need for person-

al contact for most people, Mathis said.

HIS GROUP provides a wide forum for discussion of topics such as global dilemmas, books, movies and social implications of living in a technological age.

It is not, he said, a therapy group for the lonely. Mathis calls it instead a "safari into the world of ideas."

So far, his safari has been little attended despite the current or provocative themes. Mathis is not discouraged, however. He attributes the lack of attendance — he usually has between six and 12 people during each weekly session — to the very thing from which his group evolved, advancing technology that prevents face-to-face contact and keeps society too busy to talk.

And then there's that ever present evil, TV, Mathis said.

"Whole households are built around the television set," he said with antipathy. "People have been taught not to talk. TV is a passive medium. With technology comes a

reduction of our own humanity," a lack of passion.

He hopes to restore that emotion during his weekly meetings at the West Bloomfield Library. All he asks is that participants attend the meetings with an open mind he said.

The agendas for upcoming meetings read like a college course syllabus, "What Do You Think" Mathis asks in flyers he prepares for his weekly meetings: "Follow your bliss into the abyss" where an examination of personal mythologies that shape our existence or success beyond belief.

JEFFREY CLARK, 36, is perhaps the youngest male to attend Mathis' group which is composed of people from ages 20 to 60.

A tool and die worker during the day, Clark, of Westland, said he looks forward to sharing ideas and discussing different topics when he meets with the group every Monday.

"Certainly there is more atmosphere for discussion when you go

to the I Think meetings," Clark said. "It gives you an opportunity to hear other people's views, no matter what the subject."

On Nov. 20, the discussion was about the opening of the wall in East Germany.

Mathis' reasons for forming the group were more an act of survival than a quest to showcase intelligence.

After 20 years of counseling, Mathis said he was "starved" for intelligent conversation. "I consider myself somewhat of an intellectual," he explained. "I read a lot and have a lot of unorthodox ideas. To some extent, I surround myself with people who stimulate me but it's hard to find people who are passionate."

The remedy for a brain dead age may be found he said by filling up on a protein filled "mental diet" and intellectual stimulation.

Mathis' group meets at 7 p.m. every Monday at the West Bloomfield Library on Walnut Lake Road. For more information, call 626-5413.