

points of view

At what cost will The Palace Gardens open?

THEY'VE THOUGHT of everything — these savvy entrepreneurs from Auburn Hills.

Developers of The Palace of Auburn Hills are spawning The Palace Gardens, an 18,000-seat, summer-time, state-of-the-art outdoor amphitheater on 50 wooded, wetlanded acres of the 140-acre Palace site.

The new facility, scheduled for completion next May, will have something for everyone — concerts, drama, opera, Broadway shows, ballet, family shows and community events.

Yes, they will save woodlands and wetlands — they will add to the ambience.

Yes, they will have three oversized video screens so lawn sitters can see the stage action.

Yes, they will have restrooms, concession stands and waiter-service for all areas — from lawn to VIP suites.

Yes, they will have cloth-phot-

stered pavilion seats — no more hard benches.

Yes, they will have nightcane — baby sitting for youngsters back at The Palace proper — while their parents attend the event.

Yes, they will have quiet rooms for parents who want to stay and wait for their kids.

Yes, 2,500 parking spaces will be added to the lot.

Yes, they will attempt to stagger starting times — most certainly when there are events both at The Palace and the Gardens (the very thought may give many Palace-goers nightmares).

THERE is no arguing with the success of owners David Hermelin, Bill Davidson and Robert Sosnick. They have obviously given metro Detroit a quality arena, which is both a money maker and a model for other contemporary stadiums.

But at what cost?

The Pontiac Silverdome, the pride



Judith Doner Berne

of the area when it was built, is having its problems. The new amphitheater is certain to put it out of business as anything other than the den of the Lions.

And what of the other summer-time entertainment centers? Pine Knob? Oakland University's Meadow Brook? All three lie within a few miles radius.

And then, of course, there's traffic. Picture a summer's eve. Picture you in your car. Picture going to a concert or on the way up north or just going from Southfield to the home of a Rochester Hills friend for dinner.

Of course you thought in advance not to take I-75 — or did you?

EVEN if the folks at the Dome, Meadow Brook or Pine Knob are still speaking to the Palace people, there isn't all that much leeway in scheduling concerts. Pine Knob recently announced it was reinstating picnics on the grass. Meadow Brook promotes them and one of the features of the Palace Gardens will be outdoor barbecues and prepared picnic baskets, which can be ordered by phone.

So folks are going to come when

they want, regardless of the performance time, and of course, concerts are of varying lengths.

Somehow, somewhere, some way it seems that something as regional and redundant as the Palace Gardens should have had to go through more than the city government of Auburn Hills. That's the city which opens its arms to any and all development, be it an incinerator, megamall or outdoor concert hall.

SEMOG, WHERE are you when we need you? And why don't you

have any clout? You can go on record all you want about urban sprawl, but when it gets down to doing anything about it, you look the other way.

The new Palace Gardens will give us still another reason to stay away from downtown Detroit in the summertime.

If we can get there, that is.

Judith Doner Berne is assistant managing editor for the Oakland County editions of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

Racism, economics: the American crisis

WE LAUGHED when it made its way through the newsroom. The amateurish publication heralded itself as a newspaper of racial unity, a not too clever phrase for racism.

It was chock-full of sick cartoons and articles reflecting the ignorance and fear of those who believe in white racial superiority.

We laughed at the irony of it being delivered to the driveway of photographer Guy Warren, a Westland resident who works here. Warren is black. But the laughs were uncomfortable ones.

Racism is so stupid it's difficult not to laugh and make fun of those who believe the myths of its ideology. But it is also tiresome. After all it's a sickness which we as a society just can't seem to shake.

That was brought home to us this past weekend when the controversial Japanese politician Shintaro Ishihara paid a visit at the invitation of Democratic U.S. Rep. Sander Levin.

The author of a book entitled "The Japan That Can't Say No," Ishihara surmises that racism is the foundation of this country's economic relationship with Japan.

Ishihara couldn't have picked a more appropriate area in which to come and speak of racism. After all,



Steve Barnaby

in one study after another metropolitan Detroit has been labeled as one of the most segregated areas in the United States.

A member of the Japanese Diet for the past 20 years, Ishihara made his remarks in a town meeting set in Southfield, also very appropriate.

At present Southfield residents' black and white together, are waging a battle to maintain an economically viable and racially integrated community, rather than a city where panic and white flight undercut its social, educational and economic base.

It's a valiant struggle with few allies. The verdict is still out on the outcome.

Ishihara's appearance reminds us that racism comes in many shades. As an Anglo-Saxon male I've had the unenviable experience of sitting

through countless conversations in which an ethnic or racial group has been the brunt of some stupid slur.

Most racists assume that if you're white you agree with their racist venom. So they vent their sickness all over you like some baby throwing up sour milk.

Admittedly, such encounters are becoming fewer. But that has nothing to do with a change in racial attitudes. No, it's just that in the last few years I've found the gumption to administer instantaneous feedback outlining the stupidity of such remarks.

And although it may stem the tide of idiotic remarks, unfortunately my one person crusade does little to stem the damage that is heaped upon our economic well-being.

Ishihara is more correct than we or even he believes. Racism's power is in its subtlety, not the pool-fall publications pandering to it. Racism's power is in the great whispering campaign which spreads the lies and half-truths haunting America.

And that's why Ishihara upsets us so. He doesn't whisper.

Steve Barnaby is the managing editor of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

Do homework before you apply to major university

Q: My daughter had a dream of attending a certain major university in the state and was rejected. She was rejected because her overall grade point average was not high enough. We were told she just missed the cutoff point. She wanted to go into journalism at that university. Her high school grades in journalism, English and related courses are excellent. She didn't do as well in math. We talked to a university admission counselor by phone but it didn't do any good. She has been accepted at another college but it wasn't her first choice. What else could we have done?

A: The university you are referring to always has an overabundance of applications and can enroll an entire freshman class with 3.8 grade point averages or better if they so desire.

In your situation, your daughter had a 3.9 grade point average in English, journalism and social studies. Her required math courses in high school showed a grade point average of 3.2. Not bad considering she took the more challenging math courses, competing against future engineers and the like.

However, when we average her language arts/journalism area grade point average (3.9) with the math grade point average (3.2), it rounds out to about 3.55.



Doc Doyle

Compounding the issue were her college entrance SAT scores showing the same pattern, extremely high in the verbal comprehension area but only very good in math.

Your daughter never is going to be an engineer and doesn't want to be a math major, yet her 3.2 in math kept her from the college she wanted to attend. She wants to be a journalist, did well in journalism and related courses, has won writing awards but doesn't fit the mold. Why?

It is easier to use the overall GPA and SAT results than to break these results down and review the results in relation to the student strength areas and goals in life. It also is politically safer to screen out students by using an overall GPA and SAT scores because of the huge number of applicants seeking admission.

Pragmatically, this particular university needs to demonstrate high entrance standards for government and private foundation grant purposes. And "changing long-standing

universities' procedures is harder than moving a graveyard," as Henry Braden said in 1917.

Your mistake is typical of parents who don't understand the system. Your daughter sent in her application without previous groundwork. What she should have done and what others can learn from your experience follows.

She should have met with her high school journalism teacher and language arts department head, both of whom say your daughter is a gifted student. Then she should have set up an appointment with the powers that be in the journalism department and the school newspaper division at the university.

Hopefully, her high school journalism teacher, the department head and/or counselor would have gone to that meeting with your daughter.

All your daughter's journalism awards could have been brought to the forefront at that meeting. Hopefully, your daughter would then have developed an internal advocate to help her.

Dr. James Doyle is a former assistant superintendent in the Troy School District. Questions for this column should be sent to Doc Doyle, c/o Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

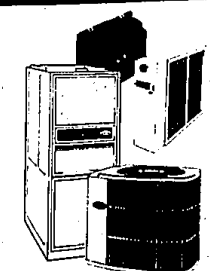
Frank Tanana, Pitcher with the Tigers, says:

"Make your home base Carrier comfortable"

"If your home life and family's comfort is as important to you as it is to me... do what I did... choose Carrier quality for your home!"



Get up to \$300 REBATE RIGHT NOW*



Get state-of-the-art quality, performance & reliability with all Carrier products. THE WEATHERMAKER® SX GAS FURNACE QUALIFYING MODELS—58SX, 58DX, 58DHC, 58SSC, 58SXB
HIGH 2000 DELUXE CENTRAL AIR CONDITIONER QUALIFYING MODELS—38TH/DL, 38TK/DL, 38XD
HUMIDIFIER
5 Year Limited Warranty
ELECTRONIC AIR CLEANER
5 Year Limited Warranty on electrical components

*Hurry - this is a limited time offer... Applies only to the purchase of both a qualifying air conditioner and gas furnace

31 DOLLAR PER TON BONUS
NATIONAL GAS FURNACE
ELECTRICITY
Carrier
We're not comfortable until you are.

CALL THESE LOCAL CARRIER DEALERS

BIRMINGHAM
M.F. Downs
Engineering
642-1882

CLARKSTON
J&J Refrigeration Co.
625-2974

WEST BLOOMFIELD
Otto A. Trzos
Company
682-3100

LIVINGSTON COUNTY
AAA
Service Network
227-1050

NOVI
Selective
Heating & Cooling
348-8633

PONTIAC
Linn
Heating & Cooling
939-0780

O'Brien & Gary's
Heating
674-4679

ROCHESTER HILLS
A&S
Heating & Cooling
852-5515

SOUTHFIELD
Summerset
Cooling & Heating
358-3110

TROY
Parent
Heating & Cooling
528-1010

UNION LAKE
Matheson Heating
& Air Conditioning
363-4868

1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995

AS ADVERTISED ON WXYT
"Ask the Handy Man" program



NOW ON SALE!

Long Time. No Stain.

You'll stain less often when you use long-lasting Cabot's Stains. Richly formulated with the highest concentration of only the finest pigments, premium quality Cabot's Stains provide exceptional durability plus extra coverage per gallon. And all Cabot's penetrating stains are guaranteed not to crack, blister or peel. So, stain less often with long-lasting Cabot's Stains.

Cabot's Semi-Solid™ Stain covers in one coat what most semi-transparent stains may not cover in two....

\$18⁹⁵ gal.

BIRMINGHAM
Worfield Paint
375 Hamilton Row
644-0910
FARMINGTON
H. Smith
25375 Grand River
474-8810
FARMINGTON HILLS
Jean's Hardware
20950 W. Twelve Mile Rd.
826-2828
HOWELL
C. N. Holkins & Son
214 N. Walnut
(617) 646-0680

LAKE ORION
Country Color Paint
135 S. Broadway
693-2120
NOVI
United Paint - Novi
4733 W. Cedar St.
474-2921
ROCHESTER
Dittman & Upton, Inc.
207 Woodward
851-9411
SOUTHFIELD
United Paint - Southfield
24871 Telegraph
353-9038

TROY
United Paint - Troy
815 E. Big Beaver Rd.
688-0760
WALLED LAKE
Oakland Hardware Plumbing
2775 Haggerty Rd.
688-8022
YPSILANTI
Ypsilanti Hardware Wood Lumber
2000 E. Michigan
482-0738

*Prices may vary between participating retailers.