

FEAR & LOAFING

Water on the brain

Have you paved your lawn yet? Notice I didn't say "you lawn" your lawn or "fertilize" your lawn. That was what you used to do, back before the Great Drought of 1990.

What's that? You haven't heard of the drought yet?

Listen, it's been so dry in southern California that residents of Santa Barbara have been forbidden to water their lawns since February. Expensive sod is dying faster than Bob Hope's jokes.

So what's that got to do with us? Plenty. In desperation, city officials are proposing to import water from Canada in barges, or ship it in from Colorado by train. However, the most popular plan is to run a giant pipeline to Lake Michigan and siphon off the Great Lakes.

Now I know what you're thinking. You're thinking that selling our precious water supply to California would kill millions of fish and animals, destroy tourism, turn our farmlands into a giant dust bowl and make Michigan uninhabitable for humans.

But isn't that reaction a little selfish?

PLEASE, CONSIDER what's at stake. Those folks with the year-round fannies are in a desperate situation — their azzalinas are withering! No wonder they are resorting to drastic measures.

According to authorities, hundreds of upset residents are actually spraying their brown lawns with green paint (I'm not making this up). Others have replaced their dearly departed grass with slabs of green concrete. Obviously, this is not the mellow, laid-back lifestyle they risk earthquakes for. This is like wow, a major bummer for sure.

It's also our chance to stand up and say, "Hey, Golden State, we're not angry that you guys only buy Japanese cars. We're not ticked off that your movies portray Detroit as Hell on earth. We're not even jealous of your perpetual sunshine. We'll gladly sell you plenty of water because one, we're big-hearted Midwesterners, and two, we're saving up to move there ourselves."

Now when the big spigot is finally turned on and Michigan becomes the new Sahara Desert, we're going to have to make some minor adjust-



Karl Nilsson
ments, like hibernating in caves during the summer.

IN CALIFORNIA, plumbers are already installing "gray water systems" that pump sewage from sinks, showers and washing machines onto the owner's parched grass. Unfortunately, this stinking, soapy sludge has made a decent game of croquet nearly impossible.

Another drought survival tactic is digging a private well. With the rise in lawn rustling, security guards in L.A. are leaving posh mansions unguarded to protect family reservoirs.

If the proposition passes, and Gov. James Blanchard agrees to trade our fresh water supply for something really valuable like, say, dinner with Linda Ronstadt, you can expect certain cultural changes.

Except for a small daily ration, water will be available only on the black market. Class warfare will break out between those who can afford it and those who can't.

"We're out of water, Bliff. Can you spare a canteen?"
"No way, Ted. You know my bougainvilleas are blooming."

"But we're sooo thirsty. Yesterday, the dog shriveled up and blew into the street. And the kids are tired of chewing dry Tang for breakfast."

"Sorry, Ted. My shrubs crave moisture, too. But I'm not heartless — here's an ice cube to split between you and Doris."

AS OUR WATER table is pumped dry to irrigate Disneyland, lawns will burn up under the hot sun. When the suburbs are nothing but strips of scorched earth, a green lawn will be the ultimate status symbol.

New pickup lines will be heard at the singles' bar: "Hey, good looking, can I buy you a drink of water? How'd you like to run your fingers through my lush, thick lawn?"

Anyway, there is one bright side to the defoliation of the former Water Wonderland:

You won't have to drive all the way across the state to see the Steeping Bear Dunes. They'll be right outside your door.

STREET SENSE

Don't let her 'sink or swim'

Dear Barbara,
I never write these kind of letters, but my husband and I do disagree with each other on an issue. I need some objective input.

My daughter, who is a high school senior, had been dating the same boy exclusively for about a year. My husband and I both liked him. When he asked for a college recommendation to a school that my husband has some pull at, my husband wrote it.

The boy was quickly accepted. However, by the time he was accepted, he had broken up with my daughter. She was devastated. She was also accepted at the same school. However, she had not shown any eagerness for attending it until she knew he was going. Of the colleges my daughter was accepted to, this is the best one. It is a large school.

Now the difference of opinion! My husband says we should not allow our daughter to go to the college that her ex-boyfriend is at. He says this would make her first year away at school harder than it needs to be. She

is immature and will need to concentrate to make grades.

But I still say that we must let her go to the school that can offer her the best education. Of course, I wish now that that strong recommendation for the boy had not been written. But it was, and we are stuck with the consequences.

Due to my daughter's own problems, any college setting will be a challenge. But I think that we should let her "sink or swim" on her own.

From Birmingham

Dear From Birmingham,
Your instincts are good. It is important for your daughter to attend the college where she has the possibility of getting the best education. It is also important that she not establish a pattern of running away from difficult situations. So, she will have to attend the school that her ex-boyfriend is attending.

However, I do not agree that you should let her "sink or swim" on her own. Because of her liabilities, on

which you and your husband agree, she needs therapeutic support.

At the onset of this column, I stated a policy of not recommending psychological therapy. However, it was naive of me to think that I could keep that promise. I find that in some cases, it is the only responsible advice that can be given. That is true here. It is the suggestion that best maximizes your daughter's chances for success.

You and your husband can also try to help your daughter with her problems. Explain to her that this love affair is "puppy love." Adolescents need to go through many, from happy beginning to sad end, as a normal part of their growth experience. She may be helped to put the experience into a normal reference by knowing that it is another part of the maturation process.

Often school counselors have the names of referral sources that have experience with teenagers. Otherwise, call the Michigan Psychological Association at 645-2508 or the



Barbara Schiff

Michigan Association of Social Workers at (517) 487-1548.

Barbara

If you have a question or a comment for Barbara Schiff, a trained therapist and experienced counselor, send it to Street Sense at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

Sailing skippers find challenge in interlake racing

Continued from Page 1

Last year, some 100 novice sailors completed land and water AYH instruction offered in the spring and fall at Livonia's Schoolcraft College and three additional locations. The program also maintains 11 boats at Kent Lake and another two at Stony Creek Lake in Rochester.

"We pretty much have our hands full," said the program, the largest offered nationally by AYH.

"IT'S PURIST RACING," said Keith Helfrich in describing a typical interlake race. Helfrich, of Birmingham, has been racing two years as a crew member, one of three required on each boat. He holds a skipper rating but is not yet certified as a racing skipper.

"Starting it's critical, or you're out from the beginning," he said. "Strategy, if you don't have strategy down, you're just reacting and at a disadvantage. The finishing leg. Very infrequently can you point to a spot and get directly there."

The race begins at an imaginary line, signaled by a referee in a motorboat 10 minutes before the start with a blast of a horn and a raised flag. Crews count down to the split second, hoping timing is accurate enough for a good start.

The race normally includes a course run twice around three buoys.

Each turn requires new strategy. Wind direction is essential in figuring the number of sails in order to maximize speed and when to tack.

"I'm always amazed how extremely sensitive (the sloop) is to minor wind changes," Helfrich said. "A drop in wind or a slight change in direction changes everything."

Each race, he added, is a singularly intense experience.

"You're very involved, from beginning to end," he said. Golden, a veteran racer who won last year's seasonal competition, said it took nine years of racing "to fit everything" into a winning combination. "Winning is rewarding because a lot of sweat and work go into a race," he said. "It requires confidence."

His biggest reward, however, is teaching others and watching them derive pleasure from the experience.

For more information on costs and dates of classes or races, call 545-0511.



RANDY BOST/Staff photographer

Jim Pogue shows Lynne Coulter of Rochester Hills how to fold the main sail.



WANTED:
32 CO-ED MUD VOLLEYBALL TEAMS

Tournament will be held Sunday, July 8, 1990
9 a.m. to ? at 2055 Milford Road, Milford, MI
(near Holden Party Store)
TEAM ENTRY FEE: \$100
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JUNE 29, 1990

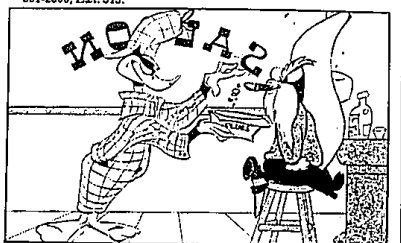
Get your team application with tournament rules and more information about MUD VOLLEY BALL—
Call: 1-800-536-5432 or (313) 832-0500

Sponsored by The Delta Sigma Phi Chapter of U of M Dearborn, Milford Times, and WLLZ 88.7 FM for the benefit of The Epilepsy Center of Michigan

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 551-2300, Ext. 313.



You can feel like a kid again with your old friends, Tweety and Sylvester, Roadrunner and Coyote, The Flintstones, Pink Panther, Bugs Bunny or the whole gang. The collectible limited-edition animated color, signed by the artists, are available at the Danielle Peleg Gallery in the Crosswinds Mall, West Bloomfield. It's a wonderful collector's item for children, young and old alike. Call 626-5810 for more information.



Saki and Sockl

Cabin Fever Games has put its mark on the games industry with two tongue-in-cheek packaging concepts. The same basic card game appears in a wine bottle (SAKI) for the adult sophisticated and in an embroidered tube sock (SOCKL) for the kids. The games are available at Joan's Hallmark, 2977 Telegraph Road, and The Merchant of Vint in Birmingham.

We salute the following hotels and motels that support this policy:

This establishment

- Will not allow the use of our rooms for teenage parties.
- Will not permit possession or use of alcohol by anyone under the age of 21, nor do we permit the use of any other drugs on our premises.
- Will notify the police or other proper authorities of the use of alcohol by persons under the age of 21 or the use of other drugs.

Because We Care.

<p>American Hotel, Detroit</p> <p>Bartley Birmingham</p> <p>Beach Front Motel, Lake Orion</p> <p>Bethlehem Hotel, Southfield</p> <p>Blue Bird Motel, Southfield</p> <p>Courtesy by Marriott, Auburn Hills</p> <p>Courtesy by Marriott, Southfield</p> <p>Courtesy by Marriott, Troy</p> <p>Days Hotel, Southfield</p> <p>Days Inn, Detroit</p> <p>Days Inn, Troy</p> <p>Dunes Hotel, Royal Oak</p> <p>Embassy Suites Hotel, Southfield</p> <p>Evergreen (The), Southfield</p> <p>Fairfield Inn, Macomb Heights</p> <p>Fairfield Inn by Marriott, Auburn Hills</p> <p>Fairfield Inn by Marriott, Auburn Hills</p> <p>Headquarters Hotel, Auburn Hills</p> <p>Holiday Inn, Auburn Hills</p> <p>Holiday Inn, Southfield Hills</p> <p>Holiday Inn, Detroit</p>	<p>Holiday Inn, Farmington Hills</p> <p>Holiday Inn, Troy</p> <p>Huron Valley Motel, Milford</p> <p>Hyatt Regency, Dearborn</p> <p>Kingsley Inn, Southfield Hills</p> <p>Kingsley Inn, Auburn Hills</p> <p>McQuinn's Motor Inn, Pontiac</p> <p>Model Inn, Farmington Hills</p> <p>Model Inn, Macomb Heights</p> <p>Model Inn, Farmington Hills</p> <p>Northfield Village, Troy</p> <p>Novel Hotel, Royal Oak</p> <p>Oxford Hotel, Royal Oak</p> <p>Palm Inn, Farmington Hills</p> <p>Plymouth Hotel, Plymouth</p> <p>Plymouth Hotel, Plymouth</p> <p>Quality Inn of Urology</p> <p>Quality Inn, Southfield Hills</p> <p>Radiation Hotel, Plymouth</p> <p>Radiation Plaza Hotel, Southfield</p> <p>Ramada Hotel, Southfield</p> <p>Red Roof Inn, Farmington Hills</p>	<p>Red Roof Inn, Southfield</p> <p>Red Roof Inn, Troy</p> <p>Residence Inn, Southfield</p> <p>Ritz Carlton, Detroit</p> <p>Ritz Hotel, Pontiac</p> <p>Sagamore Motor Lodge, R.O.</p> <p>St. Christopher Hotel, Detroit</p> <p>St. Regis, Detroit</p> <p>Shorefront Hotel, Southfield</p> <p>Shorefront Hotel, Detroit</p> <p>Signature Inn, Auburn Hills</p> <p>Somerset Inn, Troy</p> <p>Telegraph House, Southfield</p> <p>The Townsend, Birmingham</p> <p>Travelodge, Southfield</p> <p>Troy Marriott, Troy</p> <p>Troy Hilton Inn, Troy</p> <p>Troy Marriott, Troy</p> <p>Village Inn, Birmingham</p> <p>Windsor Hotel, Detroit</p> <p>Wyndham Garden Hotel, Troy</p>
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Dr. W. Robert Docking, Superintendent, Bloomfield Hills Schools

Gerald T. Hansen, Headmaster, Detroit Country Day School

Donald Zimmerman, Chief of Police, Bloomfield Township, Police Department

THE CLAYTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Alycia Sabert, Head of Upper School

Judge Stephen Cooper, 46th District Court

Marian High School, Birmingham-Milford

St. Mary Margaret Oratory, Principal, Marian High School

Mary Blanton von der Tuin, Headmistress, Eton Academy

Birmingham Police Department

Ed O'Neil, Chief of Police, Birmingham Police Department

Dr. Roger Garvelink, Superintendent, Birmingham Public Schools

Edward Glantz, Chief of Police, Franklin Village Police Department

Tom Goode, Director of Public Safety, Village of Beverly Hills

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David R. Piche, Chief of Police, Bloomfield Hills Police Department

Dr. George G. Granley, CFC, Principal, Brother Rice High School

Karen Biles, Director, Birmingham Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce

BBA

Birmingham Bloomfield Families In Action
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