

SUBURBAN LIFE

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THURSDAY, JULY 9, 1992

SOCIAL EYES



DENISE LUCAS

President does a Q&A session

To enlighten Social Eyes with information on upcoming events involving Greater West Bloomfield/Lakes, Farmington and Southfield area residents, call 442-2330 or mail information to Denise Lucas at The Eclectic, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.

Excitement filled the air as the President of the United States entered the Southfield Pavilion with Gov. John Engler for an informal question and answer period with selected Michigan law enforcement officers, officials of the state and political activists.

George Bush's topic of conversation was the "War Against Crime," with questions centered on this subject. Bush has proposed a bill before Congress to fight crime.

Michigan's first lady Michele Engler was seated off to the side with Wilhelm and Sigrun Kast. Michele was wearing a smart but turquoise suit, looking fine, as she waved across the room to her knight-in-shining armor.

Sergeant Chuck Nebus and Lt. Martin Bledsoe of the Farmington Hills police department and Ron Cramin, chief of police of West Bloomfield, were three of the right persons selected by the President to ask a question.

See SOCIAL EYES, 3C

Kids Kab is the way to go

A Bloomfield Hills mother who needed transportation for her own kids came up with Kids Kab. Now, this service is used by parents of other children and by young adults, for the convenience and safety it offers.

By ETHEL SIMMONS
STAFF WRITER



Some parents are breathing a sigh of relief, now that their children are riding the Kids Kab. Instead of having to drive the kids everywhere they need to go — including summer school and other activities — moms and dads can contract for Kids Kab, which is headquartered in Birmingham. The route covers the Birmingham-Bloomfield and West Bloomfield areas and touches on Troy, Rochester, Southfield and Farmington Hills. Franchises have been established, and Kids Kab will soon operate in Rochester Hills, Lake Orion and Grosse Pointe.

Marcie Brogan of Birmingham, who has an advertising and public relations agency in Detroit, first heard of Kids Kab when she received a flier late last summer. "It was the answer to my prayers," she said. "I thought, what a fabulous idea. It's a service long needed."

Young adults ride too

Kids Kab isn't just for little kids. It's used by students through high school and by young adults, too. Brogan's daughter, Chloe, rode Kids Kab during the school year and took the "cab" —



Easy rider: Chloe Brogan, 15, gets into Kids Kab for ride home from the Academy of the Sacred Heart in Bloomfield Hills.

actually a van — to summer school in June.

Brogan said that last September "I had just put my daughter in at the Academy of the Sacred Heart. I was concerned about the after-school sports program I wanted her to participate in."

By riding Kids Kab, Chloe, then a

freshman, was able to take part in sports activities during the school year. Then, she attended a two-week session of summer school at the academy and also drivers' education classes.

"She had summer school in the morning, then drivers' education in the afternoon. We picked her up on the way

home. I knew she always had a ride that's a safe ride."

Brogan said it was important to her that Kids Kab carefully screens its drivers and that seat belt usage is enforced. "I'm very pleased with the service. It's very personalized," she added.

See KAB, 2C

What's the message?

Hat wearers have different reasons

By LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

A fashion statement or a political one? Malcolm X wear comes with both labels.

Aroused by the long-anticipated release of Spike Lee's film tribute to the slain leader who preached black self-determination, everything from Malcolm X T-shirts to gym shoes are hot selling items this summer.

Fads inspired by film are certainly not uncommon as blackbusters such as *Boyz n the City* and *Boyz n the Hood* attest. What separates buying a *Boyz n the Hood* T-shirt from one of Malcolm X, though, is the message of solidarity conveyed by the symbol.

"Black folk are expressing themselves with Malcolm X," said Derrick Walton, assistant manager at Imperial Sports in Northland Mall, which sells both the hats and shirts. "It's sort of a militant type of reflection in society of what they're going through right now."

"With younger people, I would say it's more of a fashion statement than an expression. The older folk would know more about him."

The most popular of these is a baseball cap, which usually is black with a bold X embroidered on the front. The hats retail anywhere from \$19.95 for fitted ones to \$12.50 for the adjustable variety.



PHOTOGRAPH BY PHILIP HARRIS

Top hat: Therman Barclay, 19, who works in Southfield, wears a variation of the Malcolm X hat theme featuring African nationalist colors.

'Black folk are expressing themselves with Malcolm X.'

Derrick Walton
assistant manager
Imperial Sports

The hats and T-shirts can be found in sporting goods stores and retail clothing outlets. The Chess King in Northland Mall recently put up a display with the hats (\$12.50) and the T-shirts (\$15).

Perry Russo, manager of the sports store at Mr. Alan's Sports Connection in Southfield, says sales of Malcolm X items are booming at this store.

"The worst part about it is the movie isn't even out yet," added Russo about Lee's film that has been the center of controversy.

While most African Americans see the reemergence of Malcolm X and his beliefs as a positive trend, some wonder if mass marketing compromises his message.

Said one 14-year-old who lives in Southfield: "What bothers me is most black people didn't care about Malcolm X until they came out with the movie. My parents were into him, so I knew about him since I was young."

The youth, who refused to give his name, added he read Malcolm X's autobiography and has done reports on the leader who espoused black self-defense against white violence. He was wearing a T-shirt with an X in African nationalist colors of green, gold and red.

Many of those who wear X hats and shirts admit fashion may have been the initial impetus for buying them, but add they know what Malcolm X stood for. Even people as young as Deonte Bell, 12, of Southfield, who wasn't even born yet when the black nationalist was assassinated in 1965.

"We got the hat because I admire Malcolm X," said Bell proudly, who attends Birney Middle School, and added he also likes the suede red brim on it.

His older brother, Tyrone Bell, 16, has a similar hat. The student at Southfield-Lathrup is asked what's the significance in wearing a Malcolm X hat.

"I make no statement, really," he said. "I just like wearing the hat."

Jason Ellis, who's also a student at Southfield-Lathrup, doesn't even own the Malcolm X hat he's wearing while walking his bike down 12 Mile Road. The cap belongs to his brother, Jonathan.

Ellis is asked what he knows about Malcolm X and promptly tells how he converted to the Muslim faith while he was in prison and later formed a group (Organization for Afro-American Unity) before he was killed.

"I'm wearing it just because I don't want to get (skin) cancer," he said referring to the top of his head.

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