

Have a taste of OCC culinary arts

Are you single? Have you ever dreamt of impressing a date with a home cooked meal but consider opening a box of cereal, a major event — even with the "easy rip" top?

Are you married? Do you remember the time when you planned a romantic dinner for two but elation turned to devastation when your fiancé found empty Chinese food boxes near the back door?

Let's face it, we're not all as adept in the kitchen as we would like and would rather go out to eat than alert the local fire department every time we turn on the oven. But have you ever wondered where the chefs whose restaurants you patronize get their start?

From 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10, Oakland Community College's Hospitality Department will host a Culinary Arts Open House at the Orchard Ridge campus. For the past 13 years, the annual event has been a success, as it has served to help acquaint the public with the program's culinary and management degrees and on-campus facilities.

The evening starts with a tour of the department and its facilities. Guests attend condensed class sessions where various dishes and cooking techniques are demonstrated. Taught by the instructors and students, these sessions take place in the students' classrooms. The topics include pasta making, ice carving, cake decorating, bread braiding, hors d'oeuvres, vegetable carving, cold

foods and holiday napkin folding.

After touring the classrooms, the guests journey upstairs to the program's own dining room. For the evening, the dining room is transformed from a facility which hosts over 250 guests on a daily basis to a culinary salon for the food show.

In the culinary salon, third and fourth semester students submit original dishes to be judged by the faculty of chefs. Based on a point system, students are awarded gold, silver and bronze medals for their work. Students earn points in one of the following categories: individually plated desserts, petits fours & chocolates, wedding cake decorating, seven course gastronomic, five course gastronomic, appetizer/hors d'oeuvres, restaurant platters for 2-4 people, and cold food platters with terrines & pates.

It's possible for each student to receive the maximum amount of points in a category, giving all a

chance at a medal. Medal winners from previous years include Steve Allan of The Golden Mushroom and Paul Burnash of The Lark Restaurant.

Following the food show, hors d'oeuvres and punch is served and the awards ceremony takes place.

Although you will not become Julia Child in one evening, the

opportunity to study with the instructors is not to be missed. With helpful hints given by instructors and students, the took in each of us is sure to be inspired.

Order forms will be available for specialty items from the bake shop for the holiday season. For more information regarding the open house, please call 471-7788.

Probate court mystery explained

The Oakland County Probate Court affects everyone in town from birth to probating their estates, with guardianships and conservatorships in between.

However, not everyone is familiar with the functions of the probate court, and what people do know is not always accurate.

So the Probate Court Citizens Advisory Committee is sponsoring a seminar called "Removing the Mystery Curtain of the Pro-

bate Court."

The seminar will be presented on two days: 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10, in the Southfield Civic Center on Evergreen, and 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 15, in the Oakland County Board of Commissioners meeting room, 1200 N. Telegraph.

The seminar is free of charge. Experts in probate law will be available to answer questions. Refreshments will be served. Call 858-0057 to make reservations.

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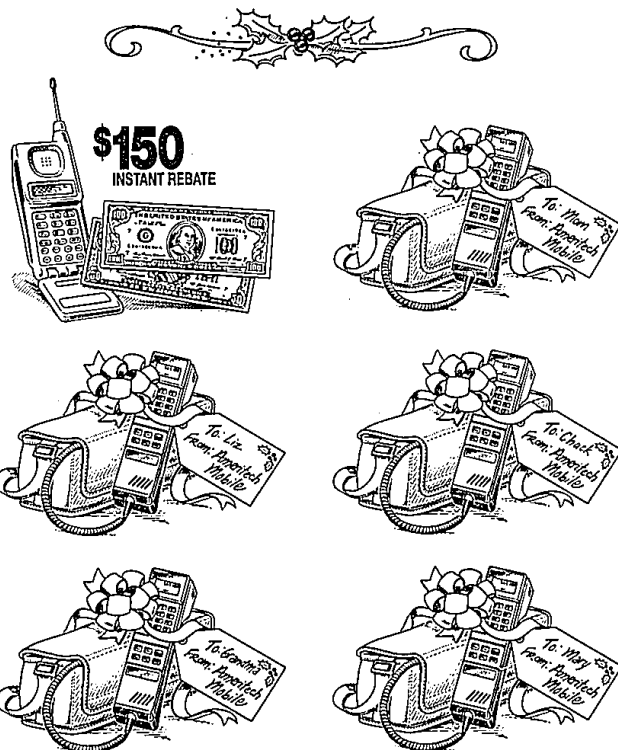
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