

SUBURBAN LIFE

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THE SCENE



GRETCHEN HITCH

Rainbows, ice make all nice

Gretchen Hitch's column *The Scene* alternates with Denise Lucas' column *Social Eyes*. To leave a message for Hitch, from a touch-tone phone, call 953-2047, Ext. 1835. Material for *The Scene* may be mailed to Hitch at 645 Kimberly, Birmingham 48009, or you may call her at 645-5277.

Rainbows and Ice was the name given the Cranbrook Institute of Science benefit last Saturday evening at the Institute. A neon arch over the front entrance provided a sort of rainbow and the multitude of sparkling gems furnished by Neilman Marcus added to the rainbows and ice theme.

Michael and Marian Ilitch, owners of Little Caesars, Detroit Red Wings and more recently the Detroit Tigers, were honorary chairpersons. The Ilitches have contributed significantly to the restoration of Cranbrook Schools.

Chairpersons were Frank and Cathy Pollock and Bob and Nancy Sellers. All of the above were in the receiving line along with Henri Romain of Neilman Marcus. If he looked familiar, Romain formerly was manager of the Warren Jewelers in Somerset, but now is manager of the Precious Jewelry at Neilman Marcus.

Ann Booth, who wore a multi-colored jacket, arrived in a foot cast as she explained she broke her foot playing paddle tennis. Hilda Ettenheller also gave a nod to a rainbow effect in a knitted black jacket with sequin stars. Susanna

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Retro look

Old clothes are nothing new to him

Farmington Hills resident Mark Loush always attracts attention with the way he dresses. He loves putting his clothes together in a different way and gets lots of compliments for his interesting attire.

By ETHEL SIMMONS
STAFF WRITER

Wearing vintage clothes is increasingly popular, but Mark Loush of Farmington Hills has been into retro dressing since his undergraduate days at Wayne State University in the 1960s.

Today, the young professional, who works as a clinical supervisor at the National Council on Alcoholism and Addiction in Flint, is still a standout in the shirts, suits, ties and coats he buys from resale shops. But, he says, these kinds of articles are getting harder to find, as the fad becomes more widespread.

Loush's style sense is evident even in the way he wears new clothes. One morning last week, he dressed for work in "an expensive, good, new suit." The six-button double-breasted olive gray Geoffrey Beane suit, with a narrow turquoise stripe, was combined with a turquoise shirt and a tie patterned with colorful fishes against a turquoise background.

On his feet, he wore a pair of engineer's, or biker's boots. "I wear these to work a lot," he said. "They're fun." Loush wears the boots with suits "if the suits have a nice taper to the leg. You've got to see the buckle (on the boot). The buckle makes the look." He also wears trendy Doc Martens boots (an English workman's shoe) with suits.

OFF THE CUFF

Being interviewed about his fashion sense appeals to his narcissism, said the upstart Loush. "I was very jazzed about the interview," he explained, in his typical, colorful way of talking.

Anything avant-garde

The subject of clothes appeals to him, much like if he was asked to talk about music, he said. "Anything that's kind of avant-garde," he explained. Quicker on his tastes in music, he responded he likes electronic music and experimental jazz.

For the office, Loush dresses according to the weather. "Today is a gorgeous day, I'll wear my expensive suit," he said, on a recent sunny winter morning. He drives 60 miles to work, and doesn't want to get stranded in good clothes trudging through the snow if he has car trouble in bad weather.

Many days, he wears one of his 10 vintage suits, which he bought at various resale shops such as Penny-pincher in Southgate and Retro Image in Dearborn. He first started buying these kinds of clothes because he needed suits instead of jeans when he started doing social work in agencies while attending WSU. His vintage suits are mostly three-button, in brown, blue, black, or black with a stripe. "I've got a really cool one upstairs. It's brown with carrot colors (flecks of orange). You don't see that kind of stuff anymore," he said.

Loush likes oversized, boxy suits. "I've got a little bit of a gut, and I

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SHARON LEHMEUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Wild and crazy ties: Mark Loush of Farmington Hills strikes a pose to show off his collection of neckties, both new and vintage.

Ex-Franklin resident's book helps women be empowered

By ETHEL SIMMONS
STAFF WRITER

More power to you! That's the rallying cry for today's women, and also the title of a new book by a former Franklin resident, Connie Brown Glaser, and Barbara Steinberg Smalley.

Both women, who live in Athens, Ga., combined their efforts to write "More Power to You! How Women Can Communicate Their Way to Success." Published last November by Warner Books, the 180-page softcover book is filling a void for women who want to improve the way they present themselves in the business world and other settings.

"The book is going great. We are talking with Warner about a second book. It's going to build on this thing," said Glaser, just before she settled down for a book-signing at Borders Bookstore in Southfield Township.

"It seems to have struck a chord" is how she explained the success the book has enjoyed so far. One of the reasons women are turning to "More Power to You" is because it's a practical how-to-

'What we're striving for is not to emulate men but to become effective.'

Connie Brown Glaser

guide on improving their communication skills.

Styles differ

"There's been a lot of differences between communication styles due to genders," said Glaser, a businesswoman who speaks forcefully and uses strong hand gestures. Her positive approach includes a smile and a pleasant manner.

"The book is very anecdotal, with lots of tips on how we can use our communication skills to empower ourselves," she said. The book also tells how women often undermine themselves by using negative forms of speaking, such as saying, "I know this sounds like a dumb question but..." The message conveyed by that kind of statement is, "Don't

take me too seriously," Glaser explained.

Women, as compared to men, tend to soften what they say. "What we're striving for is not to emulate men but to become effective," she pointed out. "Now in the '90s, a new model for communicating effectively is to take the best of both worlds."

She said the old male model of management was based on the military, and control, but that's obsolete now. What women bring to the table is integrating their traditional approach with positive male traits.

"Capitalize on your strengths," she urged. "What we're seeing is a new integration of the two communication styles."

Glaser said the tone of the book is very upbeat. Learning what's good and bad about your own communication skills can be a real plus. Gains are made. "Even if one walks away with three tips," The book hits so close to home that many women have told Glaser, "I saw myself in it."

Lure of the South

Glaser, who holds a master's degree in English and education, originally left the Detroit area to teach English for five years in Boston. After meeting her husband, they moved to the South, drawn by the allure of Savannah, Ga.

She was teaching business communications at a college when a bank in town asked her to develop a seminar for employees. That led to other seminars and then, "I decided to shift gears and establish myself as a communications consultant."

Five years ago, the University of Georgia asked her "to do something on women and communications." Two years ago, Barbara Steinberg Smalley, a specialist on women's issues (now her co-author), heard her speak and suggested they write an article together.

See POWER, 2C

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Woman-power: Former Franklin resident Connie Brown Glaser signs copy of her book "More Power to You!" for Alice Jensen of Holly at Borders Bookstore in Southfield Township.

