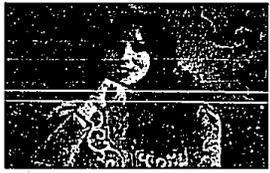


SUBURBAN LIFE

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THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1993

SOCIAL EYES



DENISE LUCAS

Eton fund-raiser continues magic

Denise Lucas' column Social Eyes alternates with Gretchen Hitch's column The Scene. You can mail information to Lucas at The Eccentric, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009, or leave a message for her, on a touch-tone phone, by calling 953-2047, Ext. 1858. You also may write her at P.O. Box 280242, Franklin 48028, or call 442-2332.

Underneath the Eton Academy sign should be the words "A Healing Place," said Eton parent Lynn Simson. "My eight year old walked in this school with very low self esteem and is now a straight-A student."

The magic of Eton is evident, and its recent fund-raising auction was equally magical. Visuals and decor were unbelievable, auction items incredible and food (provided by Opus One) exceptional.

Supporters of Eton traveled through a time capsule of American history on Sunday at the school in Birmingham. As they passed from classroom to classroom experiencing America's history, bids were made on items ranging from exotic trips to elegant mink coats.

Representing pre-1600 to the 21st century, students participated dressed as pilgrims, Abraham Lincoln, Uncle Sam and even "Star Wars" characters.

The academy dinner was held in the school gym, which was amazingly transformed into a 3001: American Space Odyssey. Black draping encased the walls, with metallic robots welcoming guests as the sounds of "Star Wars" echoed. Futuristic acrylic-stem centerpieces were creatively lit underneath with flashlights that topped the black and silver tablecloths.

To make this evening a great success, auction chairwoman and chairman Candace and Gerald Solzert worked with dozens of committee members including Pat Hartzmann, Susan Sofy-Betrus (expecting a baby in June), Tina Grubb, Sandy Roth, Sandra Thomas, Ceely Bay, Nancy Brassart, Jim Graham and headmistress Mary Van Der Tuin.

Honorary chairman and chairwomen were William and Bev Hoglund, with the Heart Award going to Karla Scherer and A. Alfred Taubman.

Runway kids

Polka dots and posies, springtime garden florals, saasy ruffles and crisp nautical stripes danced and pranced the runway as local tykes and toddlers donned the fashions of Loretta Lorion Children's Apparel in Bloomfield Hills on March 28.

Troy's weekend hot spot, Kick's (in the Troy Marriott Hotel), is still recovering from the Sunday afternoon Spring Fashion Show Benefit for the Beaumont Hospital Children's Center.

The fourth annual fashion spectacular included miracle children who were patients of the hospital and customers of Loretta Lorion. And if you remember, Ashley Johnson (star of "Family Ties") got her start strutting Lorion's stuff.

Guests didn't know what to watch — the picture-perfect fashions or the mischievous antics and happy faces of the kids who were on stage.

Catwalk kids included Jamie Olanafsky in a Miss American Pre-Teen pageant dress, Whitney Agency, Molly Loebove, Britanny and Chelsea Richardson (who celebrated her sixth birthday Sunday), Sarah and Emily Staples, Lauren Holcomb (a Beaumont miracle child), Kristy Tessoff, and Garrett Hohendorf who made his debut after his parents were successful bidders on an auction item donated by Loretta Lorion at the Cranbrook Brookside Kaleidoscope Auction last month.

Hope for children

The Women's Division for Project HOPE and members of the Project HOPE League joined

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Hope source: West Bloomfield Gerald Parks (left) hosts a reception honoring Dr. Jacek Pietrzyk (right) of Krakow, Poland, director of the Polish-American Children's Hospital, visiting the United States with his wife, Anna.



STAFF PHOTOS BY JENNY ZOLYHACY

Her Easter bonnet: Jane Buell of Birmingham tries on one of her 60 hats, in anticipation of what she may wear as part of her spring outfit on Easter. Her hats are mostly wide-brimmed straws and fedoras.

'The hat lady'

Every outfit is topped by a chapeau



Lady in red: Buell dresses in red 70 percent of the time, so it's no wonder her favorite winter hat is this red felt.

Wearing hats is a trademark of Jane Buell, a Birmingham resident, who often has her chapeaux made for her. She wears hats for her job in real estate as well as for other everyday and social occasions.

BY ETHEL SIMMONS
STAFF WRITER

Typically, women start thinking about hats — and their Easter bonnet — when spring arrives.

But for Birmingham Realtor associate Jane Buell, hats are a year-round thing. She always wears a hat, no matter what the season, and in fact is known around town as "the hat lady."

"I have about 30 summer hats and

30 winter hats," Buell said, as she stood surrounded by hats she set out in the living room of her Birmingham home. The display included many bright-hued spring and summer straw hats, as well as her favorite fall and winter felt hats, which are equally colorful, and a few small black cocktail hats.

She even greeted the visitor at her

OFF THE CUFF

door wearing a hat because it is her trademark. Buell said, "In 1977, when I got into this real estate business, I put a hat on and the customer said, 'If this is the look of your company, then I want to work with you.' From then on, I started wearing hats every single day."

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Companies want customized child care

BY ETHEL SIMMONS
STAFF WRITER

Ten years ago when partners Marilyn Williams and Debra Picard started Americare Systems, Inc., in Sylvan Lake, most of the requests from their clients for child care services related to what options were available.

At that time, many companies considering child care programs for their workers didn't know a lot about the subject, Williams said. "They requested information on options. Most asked for a child care center.

"Now companies are much more familiar with all the options. Now they want customized programs that are unique for their needs and important to the bottom line — the cost of the program as it relates to job productivity and other benefits."

Americare president Williams, who lives in Union Lake, and vice president Picard, a Bloomfield Hills resident, got together to form their corporation after working in local programs that brought them in contact with parents concerned about child care.

"Both of us were getting requests for information," Williams said. She was working for the Pontiac School District, heading the Teen Parent program, and Picard was with Community Coordinated Child Care, an Oakland County agency.

"We realized that this work and family issue was going to be an upcoming field," she said. Americare started with two or three clients, and a needs survey for the State of Michigan was among its first contracts, as was some work for Walled Lake Consolidated Schools.

Only on Saturdays

Today, Americare fills child care needs for about 30 clients. One of these is Plante & Moran, a firm

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GUY WARREN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kids care: Candace Davila, who works at Americare child care center for Plante & Moran in Southfield, holds seven-month-old Clifton Darnell, whose twin brother Matthew is at right. Also playing is India Gould, 6.