

French city not so quaint as imagined



LIVING ABROAD
KAREN MARTINEK

Someone who sets expectations is someone who is always disappointed because nothing is ever as we imagine them. I told myself this over and over again before I left and I tried not to establish any expectations about life in France.

You kept giving me all sorts of information, and I assembled those into a picture of old cobblestone streets lined by old stone houses with red wooden shutters and colorful flower boxes. I imagined beginning each morning with a walk to the boulanger or bakery to buy the day's bread, in passing the other proprietors as they unrolled their awnings and set up their tables for the business day.

Of course, Ales is nothing like this. The cobblestone streets are asphalt roads, and when you watch carefully as you walk for the car that may be taking the curb at too fast a speed. The old brick or stone houses are monstrous concrete apartment buildings with functional pull-down metallic shutters and wash whirling out to dry. And the individual, petite stores to buy bread, cheese, meat or other goods are combined into the Intermarche, the local supermarket.

Local GOP office moves

The Republican Committee of Oakland County has moved its headquarters. The new office is at 725 S. Adams, Suite 14 in the south end of Birmingham's South Adams Square Mall. An 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. open house is planned on Aug. 28.

neighborhoods or residential sections. Most of the homes and apartments are in the quarters and each has a local "tabac" which sells magazines, newspapers and cigarettes, bakery and fruit/vegetable market. Otherwise, most shops are downtown along with the theater, cinema, cafe, restaurants, police station and post office. In order to do any major shopping or business, you have to go downtown.

Almost everyone shops in centre ville. The shops are more plentiful and specialized than those in Birmingham, but they are also more personable. Upon entering the shop, each new customer is greeted by the proprietor and upon exiting it would be rude not to thank the owner for having had the opportunity to browse and buy. Many of the shopkeepers know many of their clients personally and these close acquaintances receive the traditional double kiss (kisses on both cheeks) which now seems to have been expanded to a triple kiss. Awkward as it is, the French make it so natural.

Despite the traditional downtown area, there are modern signs of American-style conveniences

everywhere. I had expected the McDonald's — which is packed at lunchtime — because I knew it existed. Yet, I didn't expect Les Allemands, the local mall. Located in the residential section of town, Les Allemands is home of the Marches.

The French shopper can find anything from home and garden supplies at the Bricomarche to the weekly food supply at the Intermarche. And if what one is searching for is not electronic equipment at the Logimarche or clothes at the Vestimarche then it's most likely located at one of the 25 other boutiques within the mall. It's not quite the scale of Twelve Oaks, but basically the same concept. In addition, it provides free, accessible parking without the hassle of maneuvering through the traffic of centre ville which is worse than trying to get through Birmingham at lunchtime.

Although different than I expected, I am far from disappointed. The apartment buildings, although far from architectural monuments, are colorful with all the clothes hanging to dry and the communities of residents are quite lively. Each evening as I

pass, it seems like a party in the common area with music playing and people gathered, talking, eating or playing Bowles. The narrow, winding streets lined with ancient buildings and shops or the pale yellow houses with orange-tiled roofs clustered on the hillside make it hard to miss the urban atmosphere of home where freeways slice up the city.

The streets are full of color and although precarious to traverse, they provide endless entertainment for someone, seated in a roadside cafe, to watch as French drivers maneuver the most impossible of feats. And although the day's bread doesn't always come fresh from the bakery, but occasionally from the freezer, I am far from disappointed with my life in France thus far.

Born and raised in Southfield, Karen Martinek graduated from Marian High School in Bloomfield Township and the University of Michigan where she studied English and education. Taking a break from teaching high school English, she is working for a year as a nanny in a town on the southern coast of France. Her columns compare life there with life in our communities.

Businesses host blood drives

The following is a list of Red Cross Bloodmobiles in the area for the month of August:
■ Friday, Aug. 6: West Bloomfield — Jack Cauley Chevrolet Inc., 7020 Orchard Lake Road, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mark Worthington, 855-9700.
■ Thursday, Aug. 12: Troy — Holiday Inn Troy, 2537 Ro-

chester Court, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Scott Jaynes, 689-0920.
■ Friday, Aug. 13: Walled Lake — Haggerty Lumber, 2055 Haggerty Road, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sara Oberg, 304-3576.
■ Monday, Aug. 16: Troy — B. Alkoms & Assoc., 2690 Crooks Road #400, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tony Franda, 362-1370.

Gibraltar

TRADE CENTER INC.
WE'RE EXPANDING!

TELL EVERYONE...
WHAT'S COMING TO TAYLOR

IF YOU EVER HAD A THOUGHT ABOUT TRYING A BUSINESS, NOW'S THE TIME. NO LEASE. GREAT CROWDS, IT'S UP TO YOU.

(313) 287-2000
DEALERS RENT YOUR SPACE NOW!

THE SPORTS AUTHORITY

FOOTBALL & SOCCER HEADQUARTERS!

umbro
1496-1696
1996

UMBRO TEE SHIRTS
Choose from an assortment of 100% cotton tee shirts with a large selection of full color graphics.

UMBRO LONG RID SHORTS
Select from an array of colors including a large selection of other Umbro fashions and soccer shorts.

adidas
1896

ADIDAS DIEGO LIGA BOY'S SOCCER CLEATS
Rubber molded stud outsole, padded tongue, breathable mesh upper, durable synthetic leather upper with heel pad and toe stitching.

adidas
3696

ADIDAS MEXICO LIGA MEN'S SOCCER CLEATS
Unique softcub leather with a 3 color molded rubber outsole stitched in forefoot area.

adidas
8996

ADIDAS COPA MEN'S SOCCER CLEATS
Supple full grain leather upper, lined pre-molded heel counter with extended leather tongue.

Wilson
3996

WILSON REPLICA JERSEY
Official NFL replica jersey with sleeve stripes and numbers in a selection of NFL teams. Teams vary by store.

1296-1496

RAWLINGS FOOTBALL PANTS
100% heavyweight double knit, breathable Visc® polyester youth and adult sizes.

mitre
1296

MITRE SYNTHETIC LEATHER SOCCER BALL
leather. Size 3,4,5.

Reebok
2496

REEBOK DEFIANCE JUNIOR YOUTH SOCCER CLEATS
Breathable extra soft synthetic uppers for quality construction and great fit.

Reebok
4496

REEBOK HANMER MEN'S SOCCER CLEATS
Full grain rubber stitched outsole, 14 primary and 17 secondary studs for maximum traction.

Reebok
5996

REEBOK MAJESTIC MEN'S SOCCER CLEATS
Full grain rubber stitched outsole, 14 primary and 17 secondary studs for maximum traction.

BIKE
1096

BIKE PRACTICE JERSEY
100% Visc® polyester pique, short sleeves and hemmed length.

1696

BIKE C550 SOCCER SHORTS
100% nylon with 2" elastic waistband, two front pockets, 5" inseam.

BIKE COMPRESSION SHORTS
1996

mitre
1696

MITRE WORLD CUP DELTA STRIKER SOCCER BALL
Hardworn synthetic leather ball. Available in sizes 3 and 4.

Reebok
3196

REEBOK PITBULL NYLON LOW MEN'S FOOTBALL CLEATS
Two color, hard rubber, multi-stud bottom with full sole cupsole.

Reebok
3196

REEBOK PITBULL HI YOUTH FOOTBALL CLEATS
Two color, hard rubber, multi-stud bottom with full sole cupsole.

Reebok
4996

REEBOK FEROCIOUS HI MEN'S FOOTBALL CLEATS
High top, reinforced nylon plate with 7, two color removable cleats.

Baden
996

BADEN INTERMEDIATE RUBBER FOOTBALL
Pro Vamer intermediate football. Made in the USA.

JUNIOR FOOTBALL...\$9.95

mitre
1796

ADIDAS U.S. SOCCER BALL
Hardworn synthetic leather ball. Available in sizes 3 and 4.

Pony
2296

PRO SET JUNIOR YOUTH FOOTBALL CLEATS
Lightweight, cushioned, durable synthetic upper, forefoot containment straps offer lateral support.

Pony
2996

SUPER HI MEN'S FOOTBALL CLEATS
Leather, nylon, mesh upper in a hi-cut design for extra support.

Pony
5996

PRO ANALYMER MEN'S COACHES CLEATS
Molded multi stud rubber outsole, exclusive shock absorbing heel, double overlay leather at key stress areas.

Wilson
2996

WILSON NFL PRO FOOTBALL
Leather cover, official size and weight.

12 PEE WEE FOOTBALL \$29.95

adidas
1796

ADIDAS U.S. SOCCER BALL
Hardworn synthetic leather ball. Available in sizes 3 and 4.

Pony
2296

PRO SET JUNIOR YOUTH FOOTBALL CLEATS
Lightweight, cushioned, durable synthetic upper, forefoot containment straps offer lateral support.

Pony
2996

SUPER HI MEN'S FOOTBALL CLEATS
Leather, nylon, mesh upper in a hi-cut design for extra support.

Pony
5996

PRO ANALYMER MEN'S COACHES CLEATS
Molded multi stud rubber outsole, exclusive shock absorbing heel, double overlay leather at key stress areas.

Wilson
5996

WILSON NFL GAME LEATHER FOOTBALL
Official ball of the NFL, premium select cowhide deep pebbled finish with triple lining lock-stitch construction.

7496

PRACTICE PARTNER ADULT SOCCER NET
All weather net with pop back for soccer and many other sports.

1996

UMBRO MATCH BAG
Nonwoven, PU, large mesh compartment with shoulder strap.

3996

ADIDAS SANTIAGO TEAM BAG
Durable nylon construction with PVC laminated backing.

4996

RIDDELL HELMET
Replaceable liner adjust sizes. Meets NOCSAE standards. Sizes 5-XL.

2796-5996

BIKE LASER 1000 SHOULDER PADS
Soft, thick body arch, extended 1" front and back with biotane flap connectors.

THE SPORTS AUTHORITY
PRICE GUARANTEE

The Sports Authority's **PRICE GUARANTEE** means just that! If you ever find a lower advertised price, just bring in the ad and we'll match it! Hassle Free!

Some limitations on special purchase and clearance items. Management reserves the right to limit quantities.

WATERFORD
277 Summit Dr. (in Summit Crossings) 738-5020

MADISON HEIGHTS
John R Rd. (South of 14 mile Rd.) 289-0133

LIVONIA
Plymouth Road (west of Alden Blvd) 522-2750

CLINTON TOWNSHIP
Gratiot Avenue and Quinlan (14 1/2 Mile Road) 871-8400

UTICA
M-59 (Hall Road) and M-53 (313) 254-8650

DRUGS DON'T WORK

Because this newspaper uses recycled newsprint whenever it can. Recycled newsprint is just one of many useful products made from old newspapers. Recycling keeps the newspaper you're reading from the landfill. And it helps us all to save money. So, after you read, recycle. And we'll do our part. We'll use it again.

Read. Then Recycle.