

POINTS OF VIEW

Let's hear it for college's alcohol-free club

Go blue. No, even in the midst of March madness, my cheer is not for the Fab Four plus a Fife.

I'm rooting for a result that is much more important than whether U-M makes it to the Final Four.

The University of Michigan just announced it will open a night club next fall that features music, dancing, comedy, — but no alcohol. It's the first college-sponsored alcohol-free nightclub in the state — and one of only a handful nationwide.

Ironically, isn't it, that the announcement comes just a day after the school's long-time and successful hockey coach is charged with drunk driving and urinating in a public place. And only a few weeks after under-age

members of its basketball and football teams are apprehended taking beer from an Ann Arbor party store.

And that's part of the problem. The message from adults — whether university officials or parents — is mixed about drinking.

So, for a long time colleges and universities wouldn't own up to the problem. Until the late '80s, they paid lip service to the fact that alcohol wasn't allowed in college dorms.

Meanwhile the kegs and cases were coming in the front door, notices of drinking parties were posted on bulletin boards, and dorm advisors let students know they wouldn't interfere as long as a bash stayed behind closed doors.

It took a small group from our part of



JUDITH DONER BERNE

Oakland County to get state universities and colleges to start assuming responsibility.

These folks had seen West Bloomfield High School's Al Dicken mobilize a whole community against student alcohol and drug abuse.

They had seen waiting lists at alcohol and drug rehabilitation centers such as Henry Ford Hospital's Maple Grove residential center in West Bloomfield.

They had seen abuse of drugs and alcohol as the prevailing reason for arrests of local young people.

And they had seen local high school students win personal battles against drugs and alcohol, only to go on to a college and an atmosphere where they were all but doomed to fail.

I remember the terror in my own daughter's voice, as she tried to stay alcohol-free as a U-M freshman. "I can't even walk into someone's room on a weekend. It's always there."

First Oakland University, then Eastern Michigan University and U-M, and

now all Michigan's public colleges and universities offer the choice of an alcohol-free dorm room.

And every year, more and more students make that choice.

"I think it's great," Dicken said, of the new alcohol-free nightclub. "A lot of people will welcome it."

"It gives people the choice. It's like the alcohol-free dorm rooms. And the college is sending the message — you don't have to drink to have fun."

U-M has set a precedent for other state colleges and universities to follow.

Go blue.

Judith Doner Berne is managing editor of the *Eccentric Newspapers*. You can reach her at 901-2553.

He's looking for a tow truck on the Information Highway

I was cruisin' down the Information Superhighway, hitting 9000 baud, trying to push it to 19,200, when WHAM! I must have hit a digitized pothole or something, cause I was way out of control. Nothing but garbage scrolling down the screen and this beeping noise coming from the CPU. I hit the brakes, but they didn't work. I crashed. Hard.

I didn't even know where I was. Lost in cyberspace, stuck in an electronic gopher hole somewhere between the University of Minnesota and the Godard Space Flight Center. It was not a pretty sight. The keyboard was locked up and even that old standby — (CTRL) [ALT] [DEL] — didn't work. Lord knows what happened to that binary file I was trying to download.

I rubbed my eyes, sighed and reached for the "RESET" button.

Nothing to do but reboot and start over.

While the Super VGA 28dp non-interlaced color monitor told me that the 486 SX was "checking extended memory, starting MS-DOS, scanning for viruses" and doing other high-tech stuff, I asked myself how an old newspaperman who started out with manual typewriters, linotypes and paste pots could have ended up stalled out and lost on the Information Superhighway.

The fault, of course, can be placed squarely on the shoulders of Greg Day and The Computer People. Greg, our local computer guru here at the O&E, and The Computer People — more formally known as the Information Services unit — are into stuff like fax services, voice mail and computer bulletin boards.

Because of them — and their counterparts all over the country — newspapers aren't what they used to be. The only linotype machine you'll find at this shop is the one in the main lobby — standing there like a dinosaur car-



JACK GLADDEN

cass on display in a museum.

Come back to the "newsroom" and you'll see computers, video display terminals and laser printers. No paste pots, no copy spikes, no copy editors wearing green eyeshades and sitting around a horseshoe shaped desk. And you won't find any ashtrays. Smoking in the newsroom of the '90s, is verboten.

So us old timers — the guys with the printer's ink on our foreheads, the flour and water paste dried under our finger-

nails, the nicotine-stained-teeth — are learning to adapt. At least we're trying. And that's how I happened to be cruisin' the Superhighway in the first place.

A few months ago Greg started up this thing called O&E Online — a so-called computer bulletin board. If you have a computer and a modem, you can dial into Online (for a small fee, of course) and read our newspapers right on your computer screen. But you can do a lot more.

You can search back issues for stories that, in the paper version of the newspaper, ended up on the bottom of the bidgee a long time ago. You can send messages to other "users" (a term always associated with drug addiction until I learned more about computers).

You can play games, download files, check the latest stock prices or — soon to come — hook up to the "Internet" and prow around other computers all over the world. And that's what got me into trouble on the Information Superhighway.

I figured if I'm gonna be a newspaperman of the '90s, I'd better learn about this stuff, so I fired up the computer and the modem and logged onto something called a "gopher." That's a weird kind of computer located somewhere (you can never be sure just where you are when you're hooked up to a gopher) and you can get into computers all over the world — from the Library of Congress to Los Alamos to NASA to computers in Istanbul or Poland that don't even speak English.

I'm not sure what you're supposed to do when you get there. If I ever arrive I'll let you know. Right now I'm checking the Yellow Pages to see if anyone offers road service on the Information Superhighway.

Jack Gladden is a copy editor at the *Observer & Eccentric newspapers*. His E-mail address is jack@online.com. If you send him a message, he'll try to figure out how to read it. But if you must use the old-fashioned phone, call 953-2124.

IN NEED OF A

CENTRAL
AIR
CONDITIONER

LENNOX
FREE ESTIMATES
525-1930
UNITED TEMPERATURE
6919 Macaboff • Livonia

QUALITY WOODEN
PLAY STRUCTURES
JUNIOR GYM SWINGS
NOW \$595

Big Gym
& Pommel
Picture

YOUR RELOCATION FOR THE
BEST QUALITY OF SERVICE
MODULAR PLACEMENTS WITH A VARIETY OF FEATURES

Creative Placements

The Doll Hospital
& Toy Soldier Shop

(313) 543-3119 • M-F 10-6 20 F 10-8

**Handcrafters
ARTS & CRAFTS
SHOW**

March 25, 26, 27
Fri. 9-9, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 11-5

at the
Northville Recreation Center
303 W. Main • 2 Bk. W. of Sheldon
Downtown Northville
Admission 12" Lunch Available No baby strollers please

Promoters: Sue Smith, Molly Pemberton P.O. Box 8744
Canion, MI 48187-0444 (313) 459-0050

The 1994 Ann Arbor Flower & Garden Show

Once Upon A Time

Visit historical gardens of yesteryear and your favorite fairy tales at our Fifth Annual Show

March 24-26, Thur. - Sat. March 27, Sun.
9 a.m. - 9 p.m. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Road, Ann Arbor, MI

\$8 - Adults, \$3 - 4-12 years \$1 off Advance Tickets though
Free - 3 years & under March 23 at all Michigan Krogers &
\$7 - Senior Day (Thur. March 24) other locations. Call (313) 998-7002.

Shuttle \$1 per person round trip from Sears parking lot at
Briarwood Mall. Exit #177 from I-94. On Site Parking \$2 per car.

For Information, Call (313) 998-7002
Sponsored by and benefiting Matthaei Botanical Gardens University of Michigan

HONEYBAKED
We know ham... like nobody else!



Ordinary supermarket hams sit in bins or freezers for days, even weeks — until they are old — just waiting to be bagged.



Honey Baked Hams are made fresh daily in our stores, always juicy and tender with no water added — prepared just for you.

HoneyBaked Ham Company Stores in Michigan

DETROIT 3741 Ford, (313) 862-8622 • GRAND RAPIDS 2200 Ford, (616) 274-8800 • TROY 1081 East Lake Lane, (313) 699-0800
FLINT 2400 Park, (313) 733-8800 • LANSING 21400 W. Five Mile, (313) 325-2804 • ROSELAND 20800 Grand, (313) 778-7500
TAYLOR 22140 Taylor, (313) 274-7000 • ETECH 14000 ETECH, (313) 946-7000 • LANSING 21100 Southfield, (313) 545-0404
WEST BLOOMFIELD 33770 West 11 Mile, (313) 851-2400 • GRAND RAPIDS 2700 Ford, (616) 953-3400 • EAST LANSING 2843 E. Grand, (313) 323-3888

MasterCard and Visa accepted

HoneyBaked Ham Company stores are found nationwide with over 200 locations in 28 states. To find a HoneyBaked brand name anywhere in the continental U.S.A., call toll-free 1-800-882-4446.

4.33%
36 MONTH CERTIFICATE

With interest rates this great, don't wait! Get your Certificate of Deposit today! Choose the term that best fits your needs 24 or 36 months.

- Minimum Deposit \$1,000
- Monthly Compounding
- Interest Checks Available
- On Deposits Over \$10,000

For the rate that is great call:

Ann Arbor (Downtown) 665-4030
Ann Arbor (Main Centre) 665-4080
Bloomfield Hills 258-5300
Grosse Pointe 882-6400
Farmington Hills 737-0444

Or Call Republic Information Center
1-800-968-4425 7AM-7PM M-F

Republic Announces Great Certificate Rates

TERM	SIMPLE INTEREST	APY*
24 MONTHS	4.00%	4.07%*
36 MONTHS	4.25%	4.33%*

REPUBLIC BANK

MEMBER FDIC

*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) on government deposits only. APY and any change after this date. Minimum Period for early withdrawal. Limited term rates. See full rate card.