

# Jobless jock's hobby feeds him, others

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STAFF WRITER

Sometimes getting fired from a job can be the best thing that ever happened to you.

Just ask former WLIZ-FM jock Jack Bob Bauer, whose talk show "Back Talk" on WXYT-AM was pulled out from under him two years ago.

"For some strange reason, they canceled my show," said Bauer, whose main claim to fame is still his annual holiday lock-me-up-in-a-trailer food drive.

"After 15 years in radio, I was tired of it, burned out," Bauer said. "I didn't want to do nothing but go fishing."

The eighth annual Marathon for Meals went forward in 1992 while Bauer was unemployed. The following March the Food Bank of Oakland County, where Bauer served as a board member, offered him a job.

Suddenly Bauer's avocation was his vocation, and he loves it, even if his current salary is but a fraction of what he used to get.

"The bottom line is," Bauer said, "money isn't the bottom line for me anymore."

Bauer now works as the Food Bank's resource development director. He is one of five full-time employees working for director Jim Macy. Those six are paid out of a \$142,500 pool of money.

Located near the old Fiero plant in Pontiac, the Food Bank stockpiles donated food items in a 14,000-square-foot warehouse where 96 county charitable organizations pick up the food and distribute it to the needy.

Among these good samaritans are Duns Scotus of Southfield, Farmington Hills Baptist Church, Five Points Community Church of Auburn Hills, Ladies of Charity of Bloomfield Hills, Menden Lake Church and Open Door of Union Lake, Rochester Church of Nazarenes, the Salvation Army and the Sarah Fisher Center in Farmington, Southfield Human Resources, St. Alexander Church of Farmington and St. Andrews Church of Rochester.

In 1993 more than \$3.3 million worth of assistance passed through the Food Bank on its way to hungry people throughout Oakland County.

Bauer is in his element. "I like my life the way it is right now," he said. "I don't have anybody holding my job over my head. I have challenges, but none of it feels like threatening anymore."

Although by most accounts, the local and national economies are currently humming, Macy and Bauer have another view. They see the need for the Food Bank's service and the agency's ability to provide that service growing in tandem.

Poverty, Bauer said, "can happen to anybody on any given day. I came very close, and I made a



Bob Bauer

ton of money."

Relatively well-off individuals can be nearly ruined financially by lawsuits, medical bills, or the loss of a job.

The majority of the people the Food Bank feeds, Bauer said, are subsisting on low-income jobs. "It's scary because there are a lot of them out there," he said. "Just because they're not living out of a refrigerator box and wearing tattered clothes doesn't mean they don't need help."

Celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, the Food Bank is on track to distribute more than three million pounds of food in 1994. Soon Macy hopes to build a 6,000-square-foot addition to the warehouse that will double storage capacity.

But the days when food banks can collect tons of soon-to-be-spoiled food from wholesale warehouses are coming to an end as supermarkets phase in the right-on-time delivery method so popular in the auto industry.

Bauer sees a time in the future when food banks "have to wind up being their own Borman Foods," complete with canning capability, refrigerators for produce and fresh meat freezers.

Already the Food Bank is getting vegetables from gardens at the state prison in Jackson and from the 62nd District Court's garden near West Bloomfield Township.

If you would like to help stock the Food Bank's warehouse, Bauer's 10th annual Marathon for Meals food drive gets under way Nov. 25.

Bauer will live for three weeks in a trailer at Woodward and 13 Mile Road and make hourly pleas for donations on WCSX-FM radio.

For more information, the Food Bank can be reached at 810-332-1473.

## OCC Student Coalition elects representative

The Oakland Community College Student Coalition has elected a new student representative to the board of trustees.

Highland Lakes campus student Paul McCullough, 44, of Highland, replaces Southfield resident Tyames Brown in the position.

McCullough will attend all meetings of the OCC board of trustees and act as liaison between the Student Coalition and the board.

The Student Coalition is a group of students from each of OCC's five campuses. Coalition members try to keep abreast of

the problems and concerns of OCC's students, then report their findings to administrators and board members.

McCullough will represent the coalition at board meetings for one year.

He is a former president of the Highland Lakes chapter of Phi Theta Kappa and was named one of 15 Most Distinguished Members of that organization nationwide for 1993-94.

McCullough plans to transfer to Oakland University and take up the study of human resources development.

## Craft show to aid hospital

People interested in getting a head start on their holiday shopping, and who want to help a good cause at the same time, might be interested in the Fall Arts and Crafts Show that will be at Providence Hospital in Southfield, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 11.

A variety of crafts and baked goods will be available, including holiday items, in the hospital's Fletcher Center auditorium and

lobby. Some craft items, donated by Providence crafters, will be raffled off throughout the day, with all proceeds going to the hospital's Associate Assistants Program.

Hot dogs, potato salad, fruit salad, tuna sandwiches, popcorn and refreshments will be on sale from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information call 434-8770.



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