

Courting help: Keri Kater of Troy passes out Valentine's candy as she asks volunteers for Courtyard Manor in Livonia, an assisted living facility.



BY TODD WICKS  
STAFF WRITER

From animal shelters to medical centers, service organizations throughout the county turned out to recruit student volunteers at Oakland University last week.

Held by the school's Campus Information Programs Organization (CIP/OIP), the Volunteer Fair on Wednesday and Thursday was the school's sixth such event. Tables occupied by representatives from 32 organizations lined the main hallway of the Oakland Center.

"We like the exposure to the student community, because that's mostly who we serve," said Shirley Brizeman, a staffer at

the Crisis Pregnancy Center in Rochester.

Clerical help, counselors, and receptionists were on Brizeman's wish list last week. She said the center's volunteer training can help students in future careers.

"If a student is going into Human Resources or counseling, it gives them an idea of a certain area in which to function," she said. "They can use it through their whole life."

Holly Lee, there to represent Hospice of Southeastern Michigan, was a volunteer there before becoming an employee.

"So far, I've been pretty happy with the set-up and response (at the fair)," she said. "You have to have the attitude that you want to sign up volunteers, but you want to educate the community and reach students about what Hospice is. This is a really good sign to reach."

Like most, many students go on to work for the group for which they volunteered, said Sister Mary Rodde, a campus minister at OU who co-organized the fair.

"In one sense, it's an entry to a job or work experience. That's so important, because you don't get job without experience. There's a lot of help out there. Don't be invited more than 200 organizations to attend the fair. Most of them are service organizations, anywhere from youth

like working with people and something cultural. Big Brothers, Big Sisters has people from all walks of life."

Todd Laster, philanthropic chair for the Alpha Kappa Si business fraternity at OU, said there are both personal and professional reasons to volunteer.

"Giving involved gives you a sense of purpose and contact with people," he said. "Most of them are people I wouldn't happen to meet on campus."

"I just enjoy it because it makes me feel good. If I'm having a bad day, when I help someone out, it brings me up. I enjoy that."

Other organizations seeking volunteers there included Graceland, Future Hope, the Southfield Parent-Youth Guidance Commission, Meadow Brook Hall Gardens, Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Michigan, Mercy Corps, Planetary Outpost Hospital Medical Center, Cranbrook Hospital, United Way, Arthritis Foundation, National Service, Space for Changing Families, Courtyard Manor of Rochester Hills, Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Peace Action, and Karmansa Cancer Institute.

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## Area groups seek volunteers

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## Nightingale nurses sought



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The Oakland University School of Nursing has launched its annual search for outstanding Michigan registered nurses to receive its 1997 Nightingale award — a commemorative Nightingale statuette and \$1,000.

Nominations are being sought for nurses who embody the spirit of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing, in five categories: nursing administration, nursing research, nursing education, nursing practice, and nursing leadership. Nomination forms are being sent to a wide variety of health care facilities and may also be obtained by phoning the School of Nursing at (810) 370-4568. Nominations must be returned to the school by March 1.

The five outstanding nurses, as well as the runner-up and nominees in each category, will be honored at the ninth Nightingale Award ceremony being held on Thursday, May 1, at the Troy Marriott Hotel.

Jan Lindemann, deputy editor of *Automotive magazine*, will be the keynote speaker at the dinner.

Dr. Justin J. Spear, dean of the School of Nursing, said that a distinguished alumni award and \$1,000 will also be given at the dinner to one of the more than 1,000 nurses who have graduated from the Oakland University School of Nursing since its inception in 1975.

"Nightingale Awards are unique because they honor imaginative work by nurses practicing in a variety of settings," Spear said. "By spotlighting nurses who are exemplary professionals in their practice settings, we build community recognition for the increasingly important roles nurses play."

The dinner is sponsored for the School of Nursing by its Board of Visitors, a group of 20 distinguished community leaders who support the school and promote nursing as a profession.

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## Essay contest open to students

The American Jewish Committee's Skirball Institute announces the kickoff of its 1997 National High School Essay Contest. American Jewish University students enrolled in grades 10-12 will be invited to submit essays on the topic: "What does it mean to be a Jew in the 21st century?" All entries must be postmarked no later than March 17. Cash prizes will be awarded to the winners.

This year's theme is "Opportunities for Education in the United States — past, present and future." To what extent do you think that we in the United States have created the best opportunities for all our students? What do you think the U.S. has to offer the world?

For further information, call the AJC office at (810) 646-7086.

## Star Clipper rolls escape, fine dining — and murder — into one vacation

BY LARRY PALADINO  
STAFF WRITER

You just went through a bad week at work? A lucrative deal fell through? The computers crashed? The roof leaked and, worst of all, the office machine went on the fritz.

You need a break for the weekend? A place to go where you are not surrounded by kids in ripped jeans, dressed out by music you dislike. An escape, or couple days at a romantic bed and breakfast?

"We got a lot of senior couples who spend the night in the B&B and younger married couples who want to do something that doesn't involve the kids," Michael Beckham, General Manager.

The Dinner Train has been around eight years and is an offshoot of the Coastal Senior Train that has provided family excursions for 14 years. A third train operation is the bed and breakfast, available for the last three years. Everything operates out of a 110-year-old depot on Fort St. Clair just north of the dead end of Maple Road.

"We're not into this as a hobby," she said. "We're down-to-earth people who work pretty hard."

Dinner Train excursions are available evenings Tuesday through Sunday, although there may not be enough reservations on some winter weekdays to warrant a trip. Weekends are very busy and during peak periods reservations need to be made well in advance.

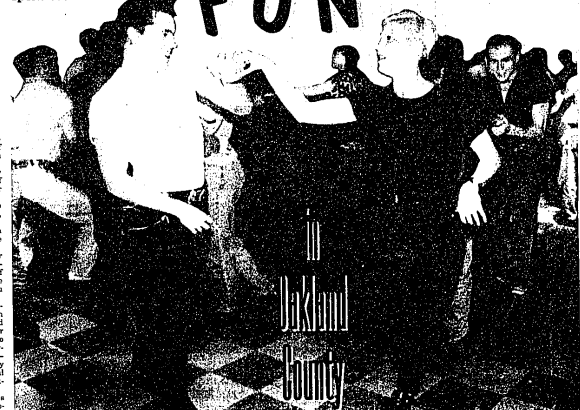
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Where to go, who to call, what to spend...



Swingin' Anthony Yacobielli of Lake Orion and Carin Grant of Detroit swing the night away at the Velvet Lounge in Pontiac — a hot spot for the under-30 crowd.

**Retro rules for under-30 crowd**

BY TODD WICKS  
STAFF WRITER

When it comes to recreation for the under-30 set in Oakland County, retro rules.

"The young professionals have grown tired of sports bars and video stores and are spending their leisure time — and money — in fun and exciting ways."

A popular jumping-off point for the trip back in time is the Velvet Lounge in Pontiac where retro and vintage are the order of the night. Once inside, patrons are greeted with a sign: No baseball hats, no printed T-shirts, no jeans. No sweatbands, no flip-flops, no Nikes for another time.

Dancers make up the core of the Velvet crowd.

**UNDER 30**

Clad in their cocktail best, beginners and experts alike swing in steady steps on the dance floor. Cheers erupt from Betty Goodman's bar on Friday and Saturday, when rockabilly, lounge, and the Velvet Lounge's "Temptations" dance lessons.

"People like to dance as couples now, instead of standing alone and grunting in place," said co-owner Mark Feller, a former bartender at the neighborhood industry dance club.

There's more intimacy; you can touch each other, spin each other around and do flips. Swing is high energy.

Word of mouth has drawn a steadily larger crowd and spawned plenty of imitators. Even the standards on the sound

club in a back room. Another hot spot, the Maple Bug in Pontiac, is a more schizophranic creation. Easily known for its "70s-style" murals, the long-standing taster offers kitschy TV shows and movie trailers. Thursday through Friday, then, the place is a social hub for the under-30 crowd.

"This is a big city, with certain pockets of people everywhere," said owner Jeremy Haberman, who spends nights checking IDs at the door. "If you just try to hit the blue population, they might come out to every other week. If you give a little something to everyone, they can have people coming in every single night."

The Wednesday night is the best time to visit.

See UNDER 30, A4

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