

ART BEAT

Send items for consideration in Art Beat to Oakland County Arts reporter, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS RECEIVE MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP
Two Rochester Hills residents have been awarded music camp scholarships by Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, a music fraternity at Western Michigan University. Jon Werner-Allen, a student at Rochester Adams High School, and Benjamin Hoffmann Krug, a student at Concord Academy in Massachusetts, are attending Seminar '98, the 47th annual summer music camp sponsored by the School of Music at WSU. Werner-Allen, a violinist, and Krug, a cellist, were selected based on their creativity and performance. Phi Mu Alpha is the largest

music fraternity in the world.

DSO'S NEW CD FEATURES STRAUSS MUSIC
The Detroit Symphony Orchestra featuring conductor Neeme Jarvi has released its 28th recording.
The new CD features Richard Strauss' suite from the ballet "Schlagobers, nine short waltzes and "Memorial Waltz."
DSO recordings can be purchased at local music stores or on the Internet at <http://www.detroitssymphony.com>

VOLUNTEERS WANTED
The Community Arts Program for the Michigan State Fair is looking for groups of volunteers to host the Fine Art Show 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 25 to Monday, Sept. 7.
Community Arts Program director Alice Diefenthaler thought an art club or organiza-

tion could divide a day long session among its members. A sign will be posted thanking the group for volunteering that particular day.
For more information or to volunteer, call (313) 369-8260.

PEWABIC POTTERY NAMES NEW DIRECTOR
Teresa A. Ireland of Birmingham has been named the new executive director at Pewabic Pottery in Detroit.
Ireland had served as vice president for the marketing firm, Bannister and Company. Most recently, she served as a Regional Business Development Manager for HCR Healthcare and Retirement Corp. of Toledo. She also is a member of the Detroit Metropolitan Preservation League and the Detroit Chamber of Commerce.
Pewabic Pottery was estab-

lished in 1903. The nonprofit arts and educational center is dedicated to ceramic art. Pewabic produces tiles for commercial and residential use.

CALL FOR ARTISTS
Artists and crafters are needed for the third annual Craft Show sponsored by St. Stephen Parents Guild Oct. 3-4 in the activity center at St. Stephen Church, 18800 Huron River Drive, New Boston.
The show is held during Huron Township's Apple Fest.
For information, call (734) 654-9817 or (734) 763-5876.

LINCOLN COMES TO PLYMOUTH
An Abraham Lincoln Collection donated to the Plymouth Historical Museum by Dr. Weldon Petz remains on exhibit through December at the museum, 155 South Main Street, Plymouth.



Teresa A. Ireland

The collection includes several thousand artifacts relating to

Lincoln's life and times in addition to a comprehensive research library and archives relating to Lincoln. The compilations of this memorabilia creates the largest collection of Abraham Lincoln research material in Michigan.
Highlights of the collection include a lock of Lincoln's hair cut from his wound the night of the assassination by then Surgeon General Barnes, one of the bronze copies of the Volk Life Mask and Hands of Lincoln made in 1860, Sandburg's works on Lincoln, signed First Editions and printer's dummies, campaign items, Civil War items, and more.
Admission to the museum is \$2 for adults, 50 cents for students, and \$5 for families. Hours are 1-4 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday and Saturday, and 2-5 p.m. Sunday. For information, call (734) 455-8940.



Literary process: Author Thomas Sullivan of Lathrup Village has organized the rooms of his house into writing enclaves.

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kind."

Beyond skin deep
Along with an ability to distill details and character insights into a well-wrought plot, Sullivan is a quick study.
He's had to be.
By the time he was 18 years old, Sullivan had attended 13 schools, many of them in South America countries where his father was a naval attaché at the U.S. embassies.
While living in Argentina in the 1950s, Eva Perone would often greet Sullivan at public ceremonies by rubbing his head. Sullivan smiles broadly as he tells the story.
In his 20s, Sullivan readily admits that he made a living waging on poker games and horse races. His "endless college career," which stretched to 10 years, was completed when he focused on teaching and marriage.

Novels of Thomas Sullivan
■ "The Martyring"
■ "Diapason"
■ "The Phases of Harry Moon"
■ "Born Burning"
■ "H.E.R.S. and H.I.M.S."

Since he and his wife divorced in the early 1990s, Sullivan has endured another change. This one, however, seems more painful than adapting to a new school.
Over the years, Sullivan has apparently learned to cope by resorting to a stream of self-deprecating and ironic remarks. Indeed, he's a perpetual "quote machine."
■ On his reputation: "I recognize I'll do well posthumously."
■ On his ability to write in different genres: "When you don't belong anywhere, you belong

everywhere."
■ On making acquaintances: "I don't drink, never take drugs, but for some reason I attract unusual people."
■ And on trying to make a living as a writer: "Raising fishing worms makes more sense."
After 25 years of "group therapy" for young English students and eking out literary phrases on the back of envelopes in between changes of classes, Sullivan has relocated and expanded his literary process to cover every room of this house.
The obvious eccentricities are mere prerequisites for creating his fictitious universe.
"I know I'm perceived as having contradictions," he said. "But within myself I'm very consistent. The contradictions are reconciled."
Apparently, the changes of the chameleon are only skin deep.

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sense of purpose.

Sense of duty
At the top of the hour of 10 every Sunday morning, Serkalan begins the program with an ethnic spiritual for "all those who couldn't make it to service."
From there, typically, the show features ethnic music, a calendar of events in the Armenia community and a reading of

the latest births, graduations, marriages and anniversaries.
In a career that has included selling life insurance, teaching Dale Carnegie courses and founding his own custom-building business, Serkalan hasn't allowed work to get in the way of duty.
In 31 years, he hasn't missed a

broadcast.
"It's my mother's influence," he laughed. "She told me, 'If you don't serve your people, I'll curse you.'"
He points to the license plate, "S Hye M." The translation: "I Am Armenia."
The lovable bear swells with pride.
Nurses Serkalan takes history with him wherever he goes.

Detroit Film Theatre announces season

The Detroit Film Theatre begins a new series Aug. 7 with Barbara Kopple's documentary on Woody Allen, "Wild Man Blues."
The series includes a newly restored version of Orson Welles' thriller "Touch of Evil," edited as he originally intended; a new director's cut of Peter Weir's "Picnic at Hanging Rock"; classic documentaries "Point of Order" and "Don't Look Back"; and new documentaries "Moon Over Broadway" and "Public Housing," and a rich selection of the best recent foreign films.
The DFT has a weekend series during which films are shown seven times and a Monday series during which films are shown once.
The DFT weekend series, all films are shown 7 and 9:30 p.m. Fridays; 4, 7 and 9:30 p.m. Saturdays; and 4 and 7 p.m. Sundays.
"Wild Man Blues," Aug. 7-9.
"Henry Fool," Aug. 14-16.

"Under the Skin," Aug. 21-23.
"Post Coitum," Aug. 28-30.
"Marie Baie Des Anges," Sept. 4-6.
"Picnic at Hanging Rock," Sept. 11-13.
"Clockwatchers," Sept. 18-20.
"Touch of Evil," Sept. 25-27.
"Gadjoo Dilo," Oct. 2-4.
"Insomnia," Oct. 9-11.
"Un Air de Famille," Oct. 16-18.
"Junk Mail," Oct. 23-25.
"See the Sea," Oct. 30-Nov. 1.
"Marcello Mastroianni: I Remember," Nov. 6-8.
"The Eel," Nov. 13-15.
"Western," Nov. 20-22.
"A Merry War," Nov. 27-Nov. 29.
"Marius and Jeannette," Dec. 4-6.
The Monday series movies are shown at 7:30 p.m.:
"Moon Over Broadway," Aug. 10.
"Fallen Angels," Aug. 17.
"Public Housing," Aug. 24.
"The Disenchanted," Aug. 31.

"Rashomon," Sept. 7.
"Point of Order," Sept. 14.
"Don't Look Back," Sept. 21.
"James Ellroy: Demon Dog of American Crime Fiction," Sept. 28.
"Bang," Oct. 5.
"Arguing the World," Oct. 12.
"Who the Hell is Juliette," Oct. 19.
"Of the Menu: The Last Day's of Chasen's," Oct. 26.
"East Palace, West Palace," Nov. 2.
"Voyage to the Beginning of the World," Nov. 9.
"The Other Side of Sunday," Nov. 16.
"The Last Big Thing," Nov. 23.
"Paul Monette: The Brink of Summer's End," Nov. 30.
Tickets are \$5.50 and available at the door as well as in advance by mail, phone or in person at the DIA's Ticket Office.
For more information or to order tickets, call (313) 833-2323.

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and human figures with a hollow countenance borrowed from the surrealists' sense of the absurd.
That Wilt can craft his art to appear as an apostle of any of these schools is admirable. But that his paintings can include all these features on one canvas is both remarkable and, at times, overly wrought.
In nearly every piece, Wilt tries to find a balance for the abstract and the real. When the synthesis of these styles is effective, Wilt's work appears as primitive, vivid eruptions of color that engage viewers with a complex code of images.
When the mixing of styles grows burdensome, the result is an over-the-top "Hades" filled with a sophistic impression of the underworld.
Perhaps the control demonstrated by Wilt in his pen and ink, and watercolor pieces indicate that his most impressive skill is as a consummate craftsman.
While the works that incorporate various styles are fascinating combinations that inevitably depend more on design than expressive power, Wilt arrives at his finest work when he focuses on a more coherent, less fragmented rendering of his subjects.

In "Nude," for instance, Wilt's attention to detail is engaging. But it's his sense of composition that captures the essence of his disconsolate, immodest subject.
A later painting, "Robin," is a delightful work because of the simplicity and ease in which he depicts a reluctant girl who looks as if she's pressing up to an omnipresent camera.
Overall, the exhibit of Wilt's early works offers insight on why he was such a highly respected teacher. Wilt shows a willingness to learn, reflect and respond.
Paintings by William Crooks at Klein Gallery
There are limits to drawing comparisons between contemporary painters and the quintessential American realist painter Edward Hopper.
And the comparison between William Glen Crooks and Hopper might stretch things too far. But here goes.
Hopper's complacent urban landscapes of a post-World War America are far away from the naturally vivid southwestern landscapes of Crooks.
But in the realist tradition, Crooks shows an uncanny ability to capture an ordinary setting

with a Hopperesque "frozen moment of time."
"The scenes are evocative without being sentimental," said David Klein, who was concerned that the southwestern settings wouldn't appeal to his local clientele.
"His paintings have a sense of place that people find comforting," said Klein, who noted that more than half of the 12-piece show has already been sold.
Crooks also brings a sophisticated sense of light and realism, but stops short of photo-realism.
With his palette of blues, purples, greens and yellows, Crooks evokes Nevada deserts, a haunting empty chair on the front porch of a clapboard house, the turbulent sky of an impending storm and the lush verdant mountain range of northern Arizona.
A self-taught painter, Crooks recalls the tradition of 19th-century American landscape painters Albert Bierstadt and Thomas Moran.
Hardly heroic and mythic like Bierstadt and Moran's paintings, Crooks' works remind us that painting is ultimately at its most powerful when the composition is distilled to its essential parts.

TICKETS ARE LIMITED!

Rock-n-Roll with Marilyn Monroe, Lucy, Elvis and many more at the first annual Cruise Preview Party — Rewin' on the Rooftops
Friday, August 14, 1998
7:00 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.

3 venues in downtown Birmingham:
Old Woodward parking structure
Chester Street parking structure
The Community House

Rain or Shine!

\$100 Friend ticket to the two rooftop locations includes entertainment galore, a strolling supper, fun foods and two complimentary beverages.
\$150 Patron ticket includes the Auto Barons Gala at The Community House, gourmet cuisine, complimentary beverages, admission to the two rooftop locations, and shuttle valet parking.

For more information and tickets, call
Variety, The Children's Charity at
248.258.5511

Hosted by Children's Charities Coalition: The Child Abuse and Neglect Council of Oakland County, The Community House, Orchards Children's Services, and Variety, the Children's Charity.